

THE HOTTEST
ALT GIRLS IN
ONE MAGAZINE

KESHIA •

INE JONES • HOPE BROOKES • LAIKA

ISSUE 78 • FREE

POP

FEATURING

WIRELESS FESTIVAL • 2000 TREES
TECHFEST • JAMIE LENMAN
ANIMALS AS LEADERS • NAPOLEON
BETWEEN THE BURIED AND ME • SIKTH
BILLY TALENT • GOOD CHARLOTTE & MORE

with
#78 REBELCRA
CROW

with some sick clothing from
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SOFT KITTY • LOVECHILD BOUDOIR
GROWL & GRANDEUR • PLUS MORE

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Model : @maggie_fracture

Photographer : @_toadiephoto



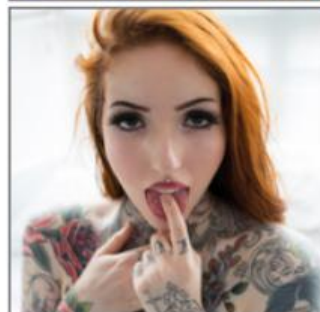
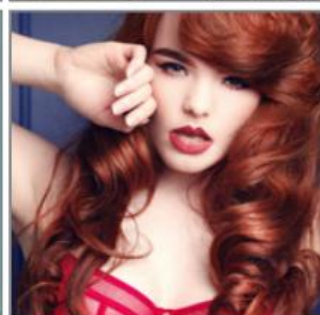
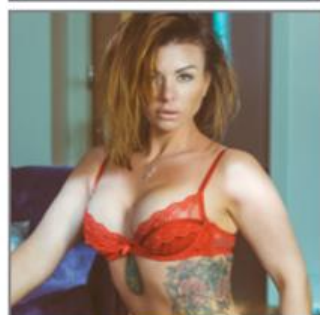
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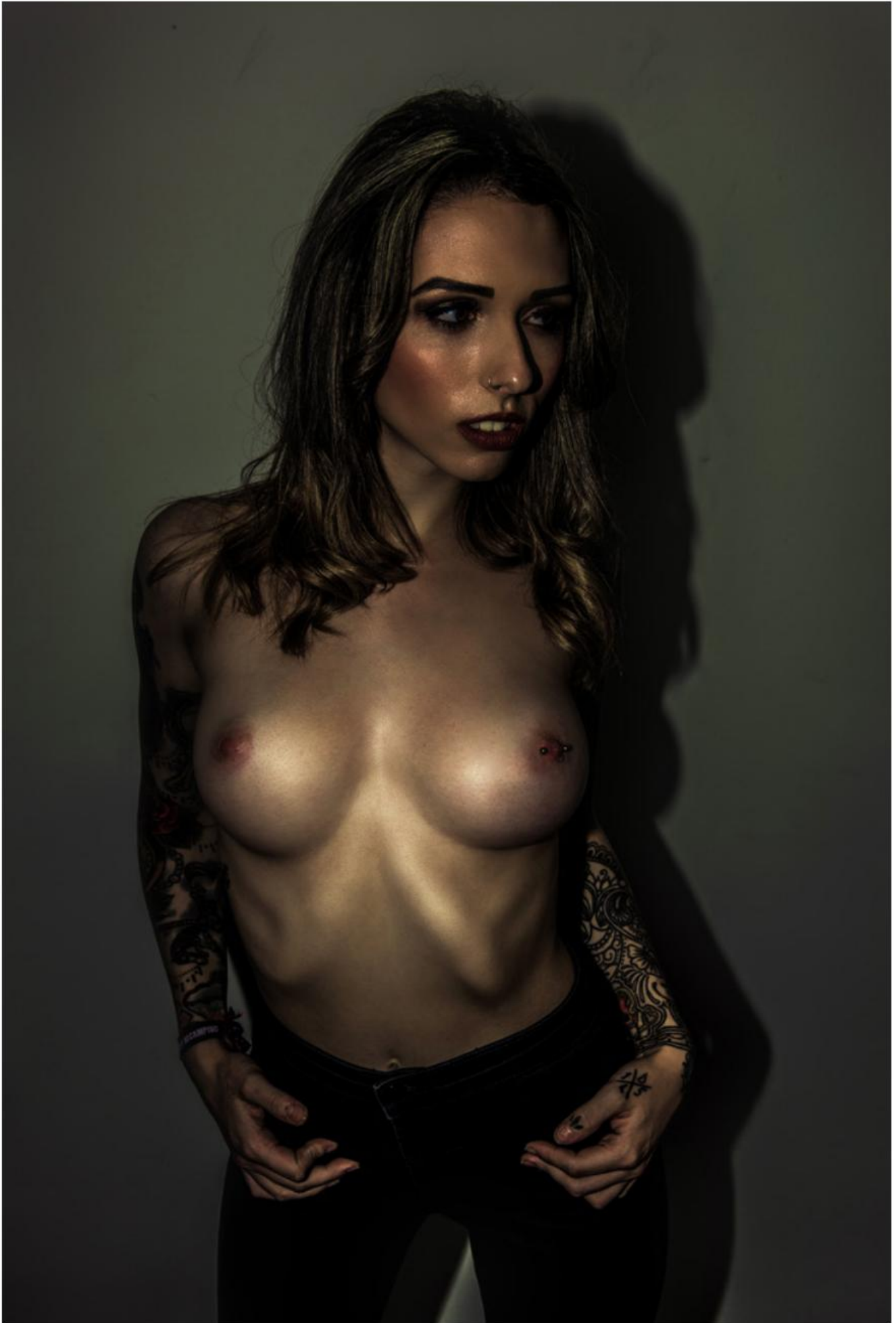


Hope Brookes

Photographer: Chris Beasley

HEY HOPE! WELCOME BNACK TO ELITE, TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF: HEY! WELL I'M 22, I LIVE IN SOLIHULL, ENGLAND. I'M IN LOVE WITH PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING, TRAVELLING THE WORLD AND JACK DANIELS WHISKEY!





**IF YOU COULD MODEL FOR ANY BRAND,
PRODUCT OR COMPANY, WHICH WOULD IT BE
AND WHY? ANYTHING WRESTLING RELATED,
OBVIOUSLY. OTHER THAN THAT I LOVE CREEP
STREET, SO I'D LOVE TO MODEL FOR THEM!**

Photographer: Chris Beasley







What have you been up to since we last saw you? Well, I've travelled around a bit, got myself into shape, got back into modelling and partied... a lot.

What was it like to work with the photographer on this shoot? Amazing, Chris is one of my favourite photographers and he did an incredible job. Plus he's a lovely guy, so I had so much fun.

What was your favourite part of the shoot? All of it! But I did especially love just hanging out with everyone and having a laugh!

What's your favourite part of your body and why? I have two.. I love my bum and I love my boobs. They're both great, I'm tiny but have really perky boobs and a perky little bum... well it's growing now.



On a scale of one to ten, how good looking are you? If I say 10 is that bad? Even if other people don't agree I'm very happy with myself and how I look so as long as I feel good that's what matters.

You're hosting an Elite sponsored jelly wrestling competition. Which four celebrity combatants will you book and why? Haha that sounds amazing! I'd pick wrestlers because that's obvious... so I'd go for Stone Cold Steve Austin.. because that would be comedy gold. Finn Balor, because look at him shirtless. Seth Rollins and Kevin Owens.

What's your favourite song currently? I'm really loving 'what's happened to us' by a lovely lady called Shura. She's amazing, you need to check her out.

What would you like Elite readers to take away from your pictures in our illustrious mag? That I'm happy with myself, that Chris is an amazing photographer and that I have an awesome look!

What's a guaranteed turn on for you? Kissing and lots of it.

Describe your perfect photoshoot: Anything where I can wear lace... or swimwear... or nothing. Anything basically!

How do you stay in such modelly perfect shape? Exercise? Diet? Good genes? Or luck? I'm pretty lucky with my weight but I do go to the gym 2-3 times a week and do body pump. I also have a great personal trainer called Kyle, who teaches me MMA and works on my toning.

What do you like most about Elite? The fact that it's the best magazine out there to represent girls of all kinds, plain girls, big girls, small girls, fake boobs, real boobs. I like knowing that I can have tattoos and be a bit quirky and still be a model. Sometimes lads mags make out that only girls who are plain janes are worth looking out and it's so not true.

Photographer: Chris Beasley



FINALLY, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO THE ELITE READERS? THAT I HOPE THEY LOVE THE PHOTOS AND THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO SEE MORE OF ME BECAUSE I'VE GOT SO MUCH I WANT TO DO AND SHOW THEM!





WE'RE TAKING OVER THE WORLD

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Photographer: Alice Blenkinsop

LITTLE Fia





**CLOTHING BY
MYSTICUM LUNA**

Hey Fia! Welcome bnack to Elite, tell us a bit about yourself: Hi Elite! Thank you for having me back! I'm a 26 year old lover of panda bears and TV.

What have you been up to since we last saw you? Pokemon! I've been dedicating most of my time to being a world class Pokemon trainer.





What was it like to work with the photographer on this shoot? It is always a pleasure working with Alice! She is such a nice girl and we always get great results. Alice is currently looking for models so get in touch gals and guys!

What was your favourite part of the shoot? My favourite part of the shoot was getting to wear all of the pretty jewellery by Mysticum Luna. The shop is rad and it always smells so good.

On a scale of one to ten, how good looking are you? Ooh! 7 in real life, 8 on Instagram!

If you could model for any brand, product or company, which would it be and why? I would like to model for a company who promotes body confidence amongst women. I feel that the media often suggests that being skinny is being unhealthy when some of us are naturally this way, even after weekends of pints and pizza.

You're hosting an Elite sponsored jelly wrestling competition. Which four celebrity combatants will you book and why? I've developed an unhealthy obsession with Blake Anderson from Workaholics. I watched all 5 seasons in a matter of weeks and brainwashed myself into thinking he was my boyfriend, so he's first up. For my own pleasure I'd have him fight Olly Sykes because he's super hot, despite the attitude. I'd like to fling Gillian McKeith into the jelly pit because it would be entertaining to watch her squirm and I'd have her against Katie Hopkins with the hopes of a jelly cat fight.

What's your favourite song currently? I love you all the time by Eagles of Death Metal.

Describe your perfect photoshoot: A perfect photoshoot can be anything as long as i'm shooting with cool people.

How do you stay in such modelly perfect shape? Exercise? Diet? Good genes? Or luck? I try to eat right, but recently my diet has been mostly pizza so I'm starting to think that I'm just lucky.

What do you like most about Elite? I like the behind the scenes videos and I enjoy the Snapchat takeovers. It's nice to get to know the girls a little more. Follow @eliteonlinemag to see what I'm talking about.

Photographer: Alice Elenkinsop

**CLOTHING BY
MYSTICUM LUNA**

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A



**WHAT'S YOUR
FAVOURITE PART
OF YOUR BODY AND
WHY? I REALLY
LOVE MY HAIR! IT'S
SO LONG AND I IT'S
LIKE MY SECURITY
BLANKET.**

What would you like Elite readers to take away from your pictures in our illustrious mag? I would like readers to know that I'm not as confident as I may seem in images, so I would like readers to also push themselves to always believe!

What's a guaranteed turn on for you? A guaranteed turn on is always good underwear! You can't go wrong with good fitting boxers.







**CLOTHING BY
MYSTICUM LUNA**

**FINALLY, IS
THERE ANYTHING
YOU WOULD LIKE
TO SAY TO THE
ELITE READERS?**
**I'M INCREDIBLY
GRATEFUL TO BE
BACK AND I'M
THANKFUL TO ALL
WHO READS THIS.
ALSO, FEEL FREE
TO HIT ME UP ON
INSTA/TWITTER
@_LITTLEFIA**

Photographer: Alice Blenkinsop

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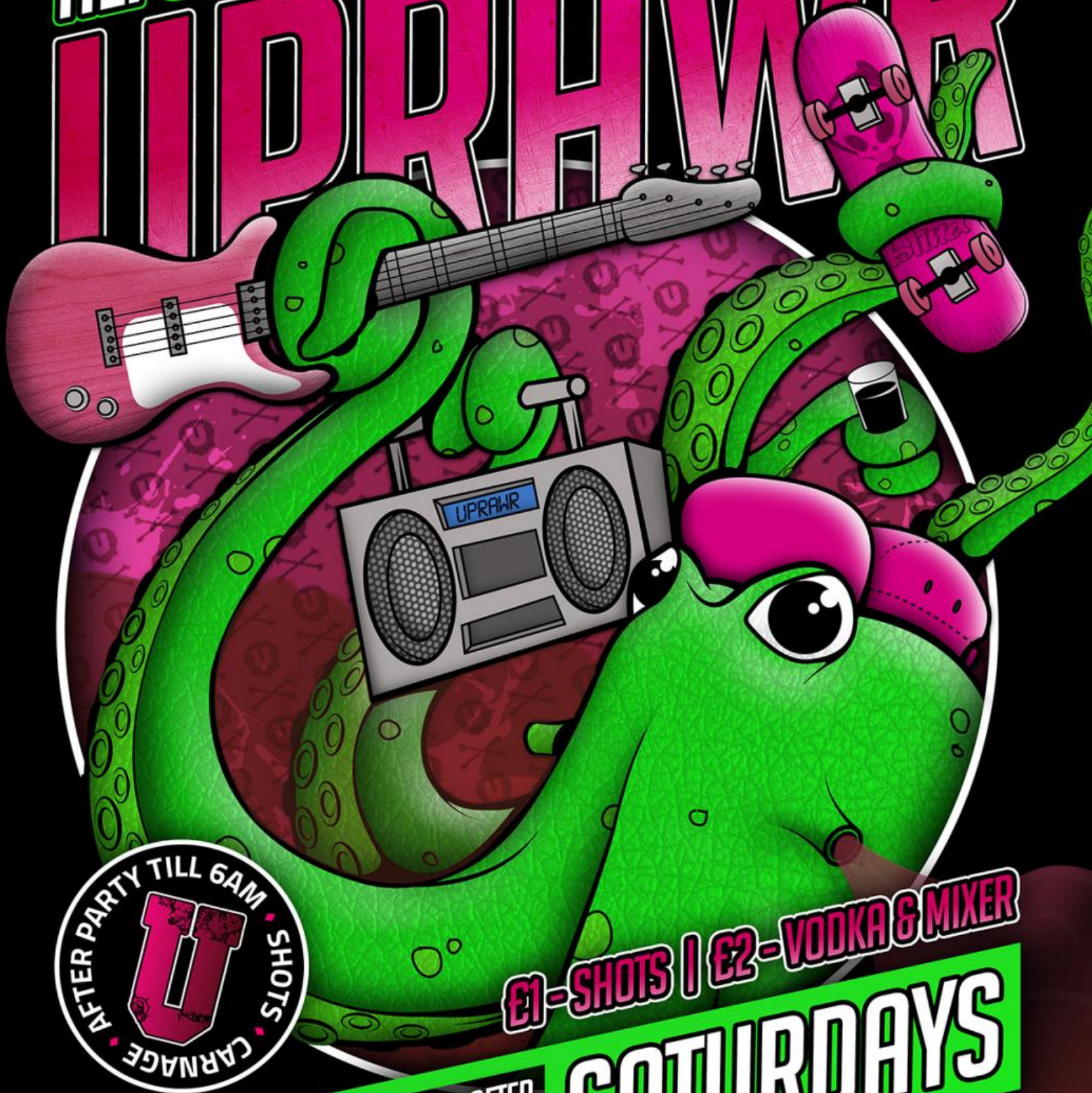
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Leonora Gabriella

Photographer: Mike White





Hey Leonora! Welcome back to Elite, tell us a bit about yourself: Hello all and thanks for having me :) A little about myself... Hmm it's always so difficult to answer this question when put on the spot! I guess in short, I am a creative, animal loving, natural redhead with a knack for oil painting, vegan cooking and bargain hunting! I am one of 6 kids and super close to my family, all but one sibling being ginger! I have never desired to lead a life other than the one I live and couldn't be in a better place right now.

What was it like to work with the photographer on this shoot? I absolutely adored working with Mike White on this shoot! He is a very talented photographer who knows his surroundings and lighting very well in order to secure the best shots. I couldn't be more pleased with how the pictures turned out and I cannot wait for our next shoot date! He knew his sense of direction straight away and I felt at ease instantly being guided when necessary or left to my own devices!

Photographer: Mike White



What have you been up to? Well, I am actually in the process of buying a house! One thing I believe every person in life should aspire to achieve is owning a house and having somewhere to call your own with no higher power. It's all very exciting and getting underway so quickly! I must be growing up!

What's your favourite part of your body and why? Without trying to sound too explicit, I absolutely love my nipples! Haha! They are teeny tiny and super sensitive which is obviously beneficial for certain activities! I also have cute little hearts outlined around them because I was always sensitive about how pale they were, the hearts solved that problem for me so now I love them!

On a scale of one to ten, how good looking are you? This is obviously a difficult question to answer. I go to certain measures sometimes with the way I dress, my hair and make up etc, in order to become what I perceive as attractive... but then that may actually be more to other people than myself. Generally,

on a pretty relaxed day without effort, I would give myself a 5/6- nothing special, but when I do myself up, I can definitely feel like a solid 8/9, because that is my perception of good looking. It also completely depends on who I see, I could be strutting around feeling a solid 8 and then see an absolutely beyond gorgeous woman from afar and suddenly feel a 5/6. So in short, I guess it depends entirely on the day and circumstances!

If you could model for any brand, product or company, which would it be and why? I don't have any preferences when it comes to brand support. I hugely appreciate companies that donate to charities, especially animal charities as it's a soft spot of mine, and helping out in any way is a huge privilege to me. With that, I can safely say that clothing and lingerie product modelling is a preference because I like working my whole body into a shot. Though I've always wanted to give wig modelling a go just to see how much it may alter my modelling!





WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF THE SHOOT? I WOULD HAVE TO SAY WHEN WE HAD A HALF WAY BREAK IN BETWEEN FOR AN ORANGE LOLLY IN ORDER TO BLOW UP A MATTRESS... WHICH TOOK DANGEROUSLY LONGER THAN EXPECTED! HAHA!







You're hosting an Elite sponsored jelly wrestling competition. Which four celebrity combatants will you book and why? Jelly wrestling!? Well without a doubt Megan Fox, and that would be purely for my benefit haha! Jennifer Lawrence, for the same reasons as Megan Fox and because I feel like she would actually be brilliantly competitive and do a great job. Julianne Hough, because if I could get her to also sing at some point then my life may be made. Then finally, perhaps a bit of Ruby Rose, no explanation necessary.

What's your favourite song currently? I have been hooked on Sia 'Cheap Thrills' since it came out! It has yet to become old and definitely creates that personalised music video moment when it comes on in the car!

What would you like Elite readers to take away from your pictures in our illustrious mag? I mean, most of all I would like people to like the pictures! And definitely inspire other models to get booked in with Mike White! However much experience you have!

Describe your perfect photoshoot: My perfect photoshoot would involve lots of different looks, stand by food, plenty of accessible mirrors to check angles etc, music (completely dependant on my mood of the day!) and someone else to do my hair as I really don't have a huge variety of looks when it comes to styling my own hair! Haha.

How do you stay in such modelly perfect shape? Exercise? Diet? Good genes? Or luck? I make sure I eat my 5-a-day! I drink plenty of water and walk a lot. I don't do anything special at all. I'm vegan which cuts out a fair amount of bad foods as it is, but it's definitely my strict water in take and 5-a-day necessity that keeps all the Wobblies in place!

What do you like most about Elite? I literally adore staring at the pictures of all the gorgeous models! Definitely makes me think about my own posing! And a lot of these people I have literally only ever come across in pictures, so reading a little bit about them is always pretty eye opening too!



WHAT'S A GUARANTEED TURN ON FOR YOU? TURN ONS FOR ME ARE NECK KISSING AND DIRTY TALK! KISS ME ON THE NECK AND I'M GOLD. BUT THE DIRTY TALK HAS TO BE IN PERSON THOUGH... NONE OF THESE CRINGEY IMPERSONAL MESSAGES WHICH DON'T ACTUALLY SHOW HOW THE OTHER PERSON IS FEELING OR WHAT THEY'RE THINKING!

Photographer: Mike White





PHOTOGRAPHER: MIKE WHITE

Finally, is there anything you would like to say to the Elite Readers? Do not take yourself too seriously. Experience as much as you can in the time you have and love with every fibre of your being.



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LISHA BLACKHURST

Photographer: ATOM



So Lisha, did you enjoy your shoot for Elite? I always do! Fraser is great fun and even showed me the cat café, Mog on the Tyne after which is brilliant! Boobs and cats in one day, what more could you want?! That guy knows how to live.

You live in York - does this mean you are one of the poshest people to shoot with Elite? Potentially... if presuming all the other models are complete riff-raff, I will say most definitely yes! Haha.

If you can travel anywhere else in the world, where would it be and why? Having a little trouble with this one myself trying to decide where to holiday in September! Any ideas are welcome, I think Italy is tempting but I just can't decide.

So you have a blog with us now, 'The Little Blog Of Horror'... tell us what that's about: Just a great place to talk horror, reviews and horror-inspired Creep Street Clothing! All my favourite things.

What's your favourite body part? This time I am going to say my shoulders, because shoulders never get fat!



**WHO IS YOUR
FAVOURITE MODEL
RIGHT NOW? I WOULD
HAVE TO SAY KESHIA! I
WAS LUCKILY TO MEET
THIS BEAUTIFUL GIRL
IN PERSON AFTER THE
SHOOT AND SHE WAS
EVEN LOVELIER IN
REAL LIFE!**

**SATAN
IS
WAITIN**

**SATAN IS WAITIN
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**LINGERIE BY
MALICE CLOTHING**





Ok standard interview question here... you are allowed to have dinner with 3 people... one has to be dead, one has to be alive and one has to be someone you want to exist but doesn't... who'd you invite? Ooh most definitely Bette Davis for one, I cried when I was little when I realised she was already dead after I had fallen in love with her in All About Eve, then I would choose Eli Roth, he's a total babe, and Pocahontas so she can give me some haircare tips! Haha.

Looking through your Facebook page, it seems as if you're life's just boobs and rabbits...is this a fair assumption? With a few scatterings of food I've eaten, you're probably correct!

**LINGERIE BY
MALICE CLOTHING**

ANY PLANS TO COME
BACK TO US OR
IS THIS THE LAST
TIME WE WILL SEE
LISHA? WE SHOULD
HAVE SOMETHING IN
STORE FOR MY 2016
CALENDAR... KEEP AN
EYE OUT!

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*Chris
Beasley*

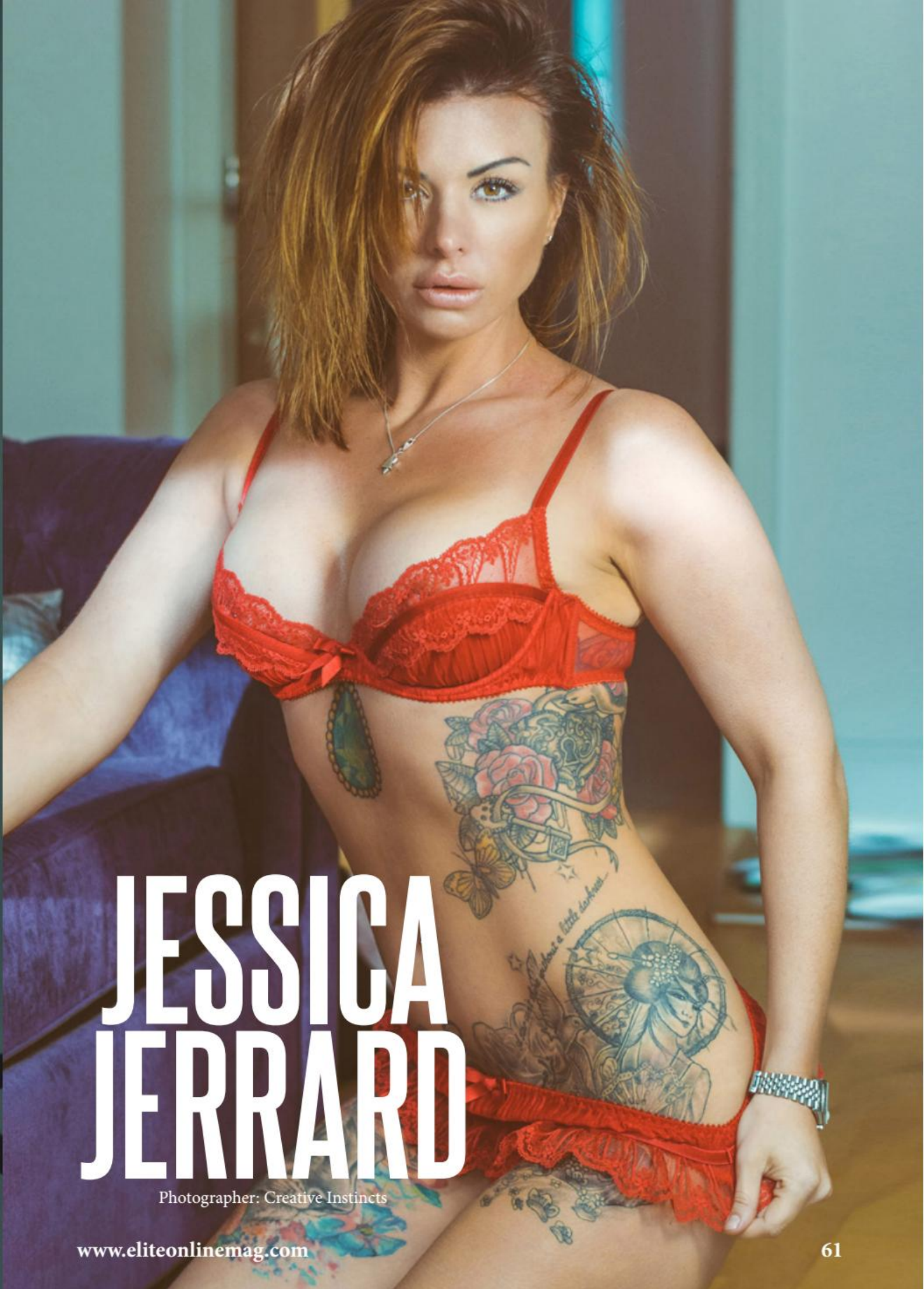
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**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.**
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A full-page photograph of Jessica Jerrard. She is a woman with long, wavy brown hair, looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. She is wearing a red lace bikini top and matching bottoms. She has several tattoos: a large, colorful floral design on her right side, a teardrop-shaped tattoo on her left side, and a circular tattoo on her left hip featuring a woman's face. She is also wearing a silver necklace and a silver watch on her left wrist. The background is a blurred indoor setting with a blue couch and a window.

JESSICA JERRARD

Photographer: Creative Instincts

www.eliteonlinemag.com



Hey Jessica! What have you been up to since we last saw you? Hi! Well quite a lot really! I've had my two year old daughter Amorai. I've added fire breathing to my skills along with dancing and become an Ink Doll. So keeping very busy being a mummy and performing.

What was it like to work with the photographer on this shoot? Was fun! Glen has some great ideas and the shots came out awesome :)

What was your favourite part of the shoot? Apart from trekking around London as the initial shoot location was too small... It was working with Glen.

What's your favourite part of your body and why? Hmm, tricky questions this time! I'd probably say my eyes or my stomach.

On a scale of one to ten, how good looking are you? Erm 7/8?! I don't know ha.

If you could model for any brand, product or company, which would it be and why? Agent Provocateur or Victoria's Secret would be a dream! The shows are unbelievable and I love the creativity that goes into each show.

You're hosting an Elite sponsored jelly wrestling competition. Which four celebrity combatants will you book and why? Ruby Rose, she's ridic hot! Angelina Jolie, she's fiery and beautiful. Jennifer Lawrence as she's hilarious and doesn't take herself too seriously. Finally, Kat Von D! It would be interesting viewing to say the least!



What's your favourite song currently? Jeremih (feat. Lil Wayne & Natasha Mosley) "All the Time".

What would you like Elite readers to take away from your pictures in our illustrious mag? I hope they like them and want to see some more :D

**WHAT'S A
GUARANTEED
TURN ON FOR
YOU? EYES
AND MAKING
ME LAUGH.**

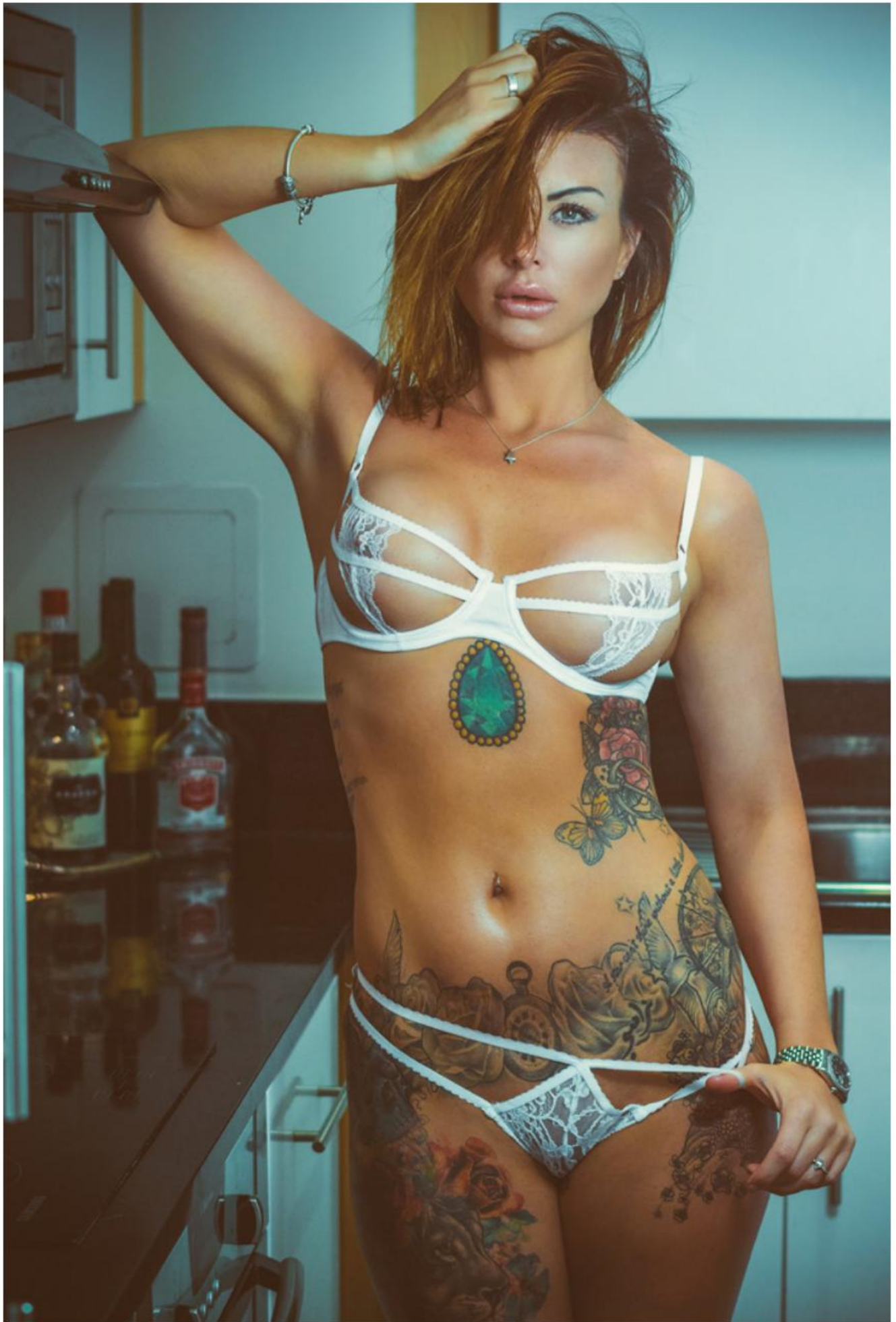
Describe your perfect photoshoot:
Good lighting and something a bit different. I'd like to do some more alternative shoots.

How do you stay in such modelly perfect shape? Exercise? Diet? Good genes? Or luck? I wouldn't say perfect shape, but I try and stick to a healthy diet and exercise. In an ideal world I would put the dedication to do weights more often and become more of a fitness physique but I can't keep motivated!

What do you like most about Elite?
That it covers everything you want in a mag!

Photographer: Creative Instincts





A full-page photograph of a woman with long brown hair and blue eyes, looking intensely at the camera. She is wearing a purple halter-neck top and black Calvin Klein underwear with a white waistband. She has numerous tattoos, including a small 'K' on her upper chest, a large tattoo on her midriff, and a large tattoo on her right thigh. She is holding the bottom of her top with her right hand, which also wears a silver watch and a ring. The background is a simple indoor setting with a light blue wall and a wooden floor.

**FINALLY, IS THERE
ANYTHING YOU WOULD
LIKE TO SAY TO THE
ELITE READERS?
THANK YOU FOR
TAKING THE TIME TO
READ MY INTERVIEW.
I HOPE YOU ENJOY AND
WOULD LOVE TO BE
BACK SOON! JESSICA X**

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THE QUEEN OF ALT IS BACK!

REBECCA CROW

Photographer: Tripodski

Welcome Rebecca, how are you? Olaaa, I'm very well thank you, since its my BIRTHDAY WEEK.

Seriously though, we're so thrilled to have you in Elite again Rebecca. Did you have fun shooting for us? You know it! Its always super fun with you guys.

What is like to grace our cover again? It's an honour! Thank you for having me back, you always make me look like a badass haha.

You always seem so effortless on camera, is it hard reinventing yourself for new features? I'm not sure about effortless haha, I'm a clumsy fucker! I just like to go with the flow, my brain is constantly churning out weird ideas and some of them work. Some of them really don't haha.

You're a southern girl. What are the "must dos" down there? Do you stick around there or venture all over the place? I am! Well if you're down here you obviously have to come to my club night 'SuicideGirls Ballroom Blitz'! It's in Camden, London and is always crammed with hot babes and sexy mayhem. But generally, go to Camden. I love it. I travel around a lot. I'm pretty lucky! Brighton is always a riot too!

What is the most British thing you do? Tea. Constant, shameless tea chugging. And checking the weather constantly.



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**SEE YOU IN HELL
PULLOVER \$36.00**





You are without a doubt one of the coolest people we have met! Every time of the year seems exciting for you. You're always up to something. When is your chill time and what do you get up to? Aww thanks! My life is pretty mental haha. January is always quiet for me, everyone is skint so I usually use it to refocus my life after a mad party season and set my goals for the year. I'm doing pretty well this year!

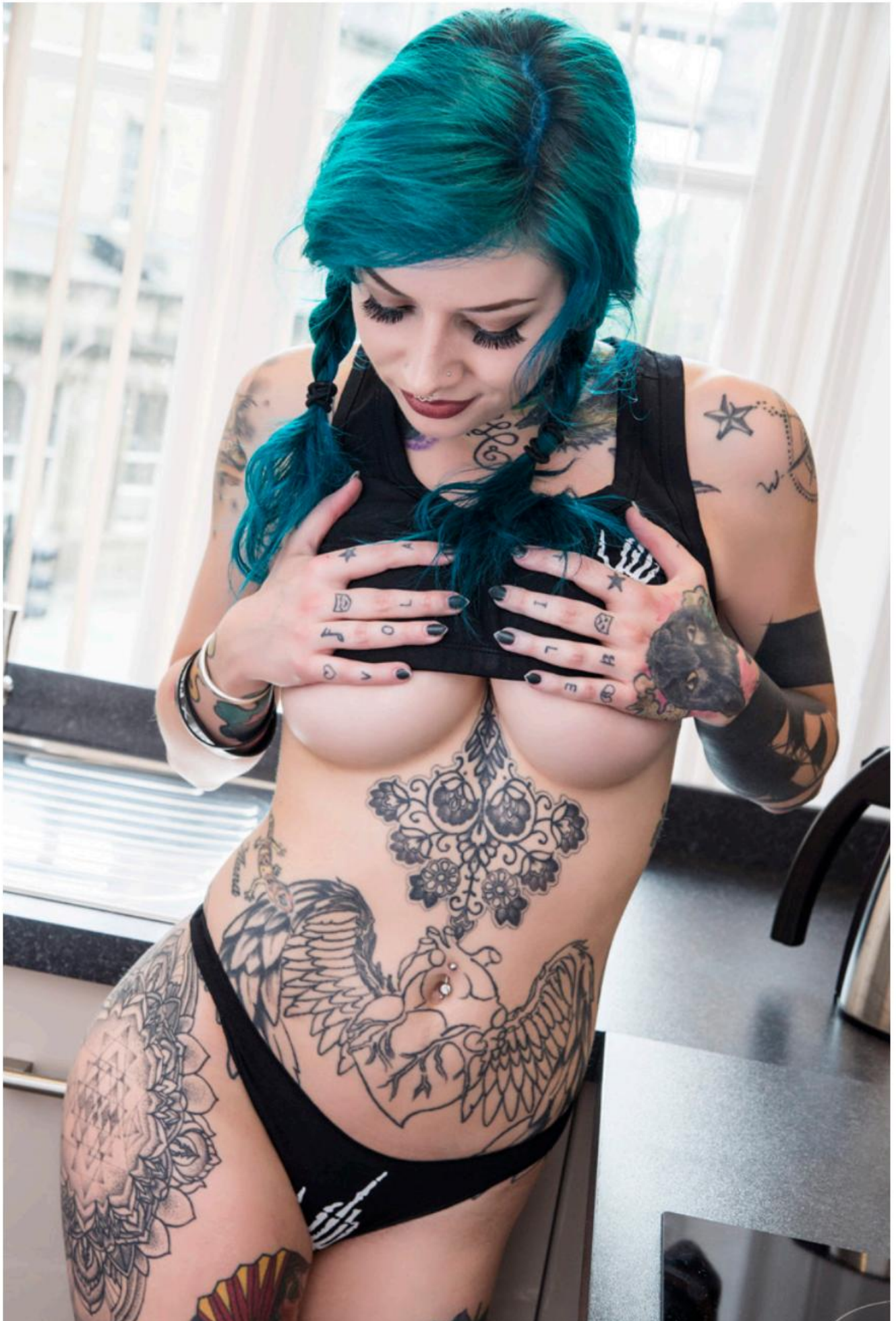
Something you rock at is your sense of fashion. We bet you are starting to put together quite a collection. What is your favourite piece? Haha I'm very lucky to be affiliated with brands such as Killstar, Malice Lingerie and Creep Street which definitely helps. My only rule is that I strictly wear black white and grey. No colour, my hair provides enough of that! But my all time favourite piece has to be my Malice Lingerie set.

You are a bit of a alt queen since you are modelling for all kinds of brands and touring. Where do you find the inspiration for it all to stay current and who you are? Aww thanks! I honestly don't know, my brain is a minefield and I just like to roll with the punches. It can be easy to lose touch with who you are, so I like to look back at how far I've come and how I've developed and it reminds me to stay on track.

It was clear from your feature you have a great figure! Where does that come from? Do you have to work for it or is it just good jeans/genes? Haha good jeans definitely. But genes are good too! My mumma always had a good figure and boobs! But I like to stay active and I try to cram as many veggies in my body as I can. But when the pizza comes calling, I don't deny myself. What kind of life would that be!

You have one of the best ass/boob combos going! What is your personal fave body part? Thank you! I don't really know, people always ask me this. I guess I like it all as it works together! But if I had to choose something specific, my eyes. I use them to hex people! Not really... or do I?

With that in mind, which person do you think has the best ass or boobs at the moment? My friend, @jayne_elizabethx has THE most incredible butt. And shes a killer pole dancer. She performs at the Ballroom Blitz, you HAVE to see her!



A woman with vibrant teal hair is sitting on a brown leather armchair, leaning back and looking over her shoulder at the camera. She has numerous tattoos, including a large compass rose on her right shoulder, a wide black armband on her right arm, and various designs on her legs and back. She is wearing a black strappy bikini top and matching bottoms, along with black high-heeled sandals. The background consists of brown curtains and a white wall.

Someone once asked me to describe "cool" in three words and I said Rebecca Fucking Crow. You're a definite icon of awesomeness. Do you see yourself as a cool person? Haha thats my name! I really don't though, I'm a fucking goofball. If I try to be even a little bit cool, I'll fall over. Seriously, I fall over a lot. My knees are buff.





What are your favourite memories from your amazing modelling career so far? It's got to be traveling to some amazing places. The first time I went to LA was incredible. Also getting to tour and see every major city in the USA with SuicideGirls. That was mind blowing.

What's next for Rebecca?

Progressing on world domination with the Ballroom Blitz, venturing to new places with Pyrohex (an English speaking country we've never been to before, hang tight!) and selling my brand new first time ever T-SHIRTS WOOO! Shot and designed by yourselves of course. You can preorder one now at www.rebeccacrowstore.bigcartel.com

Okay, a little quick fire round now Rebecca, a madman with a loaded skunk's posterior breaks in a demands your choices between...

Long or short hair? LONG

Ham or Cheese? CHEESE

Twitter or Instagram? TWITTER (it's close but Instagram have royally fucked it with their cunt algorithms now)

Boobs or Bum? BUM

LA or London? Fuck thats hard... LONDON

Circus or Cinema? CIRCUS

Bearded or clean shaved? CLEAN SHAVED

Bikini or onesie? BIKINI

Photographer: Tripodski



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Inspiration is important to you, be it music, film or books. What is inspiring you at the moment? Ooh yes! At the moment it's Pokemo... uhhh. That's a hard question actually. My immediate response is always the girls around me. I'm SO lucky to be involved and know SO many badass bitches and they inspire me to slayyyy everydayyy. Come to the Ballroom Blitz and you'll meet them!

Are you a homebird or someone that prefers a night on the town? PARTYYYYYYYYYY!





**IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE
REBECCA. WHAT ARE YOU UP TO
AFTER THIS INTERVIEW IS DONE?**
**I'M HEADING TO NOT ANOTHER
SALON TO HAVE A TREATMENT
ON MY HAIR AND THEN IT'S IS
MY FACKING BIRTHDAY AND I'M
FLYING TO MALTA. BOOM.**

Photographer: Tripodski





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Have you got a message for your masses of fans and our lovely Elite readers? Don't miss out on my first EVER bunch of t-shirts, preorder here - www.rebeccacrowstore.bigcartel.com. Also DEFINITELY come and party with me and tons of hot SGs at the Ballroom Blitz - @suicidegirlsballroomblitz on Insta and www.facebook.com/sgballroomblitz

Finally, will you be coming back to us shortly as we can't get enough of you! I'LL BE BACK. Please read that in Arnys voice.

PHOTOGRAPHER: TRIPODSKI

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Photographer: Kitty KEMS

MISS DEADLY RED

Hey Miss Deadly Red! Welcome back to Elite, tell us a bit about yourself:

Heya! Well I'm a little ginger lady from the south of England, I like crochet and cross stitch (like a funky granny) I would say I'm quite an odd person, some people find it endearing, (emphasis on 'some') I tend to babble quite a bit when I'm nervous, and I always carry spanners in my bag.

What's your favourite part of your body and why?

I know it sounds a little strange but I would say my hands, (my left one preferably) I think its because I've gone through phases of life not feeling 100% about different aspects of my body, but my hands are something I have never wanted to change.

On a scale of one to ten, how good looking are you?

It's a difficult question as like art it's a very subjective thing, I would probably say about a 6, as I don't feel too comfortable with letting people see me without makeup and I know that I'm made up of little imperfections which make me who I am, but I wouldn't want to be any other way.

You're hosting an Elite sponsored jelly wrestling competition. Which four celebrity combatants will you book and why?

I would probably say Michael Fassbender and Tom Hiddleston because lets face it, who wouldn't pay good money to see them play about in jelly! Also Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart, because I just feel that witnessing the dialogue alone would be glorious. It would be so incredibly dignified considering the circumstances, also I feel like it would just make their blossoming bromance stronger!

What's your favourite song currently?

Like the super cool cat that I am, it's currently 'We don't have to take our clothes off' by Jermaine Stewart, I just think its one of those songs you can't possibly be sad when your listening to it, and it's a feel good, wholesome message to send out there, just get to know each other, maybe keep your kit on for the time being, and drink more cherry wine, simple!







IF YOU COULD MODEL FOR
ANY BRAND, PRODUCT OR
COMPANY, WHICH WOULD
IT BE AND WHY? I WOULD
PROBABLY SAY VOGUE,
PURELY BECAUSE I
WOULD HAVE SUCH PRIDE
BEING ABLE TO SAY A
SHORT CURVY LADY
MODELED FOR THEM!



What would you like Elite readers to take away from your pictures in our illustrious mag? Probably just to know that you can be beautiful in your own unique way, you don't have to try look like anyone else to be beautiful, as we all are different for a reason, and that shouldn't be hidden it should be celebrated!

Describe your perfect photoshoot: I think that would have to be where we had small team of people all creatives getting to do what they do best and having a bit of freedom on the styles/themes of course having beautiful garments (preferably corsetry as it's my weakness) and mainly just being able to have fun with it, there's nothing I love more than having a team who don't even feel like work colleagues just very fast friends! I wouldn't mind so much what it would be for or where it would take place, as it's more about the vibe of the shoot that would make it perfect, some of my favourite shoots have been in the most random places you'd never expect!

How do you stay in such modelly perfect shape? Exercise? Diet? Good genes? Or luck? I'm really not in good shape, I get out of breath from just running up the stairs! My body is built on pizza, hopes and dreams! I do yoga semi-regularly and I try to fit in sets of ab exercises but nothing too major, but I think it does help that I walk practically everywhere!

Photographer: Kitty KEMS









What do you like most about Elite? The fact that Elite embraces models of all different shapes, sizes and styles Elite really celebrates peoples differences which is a very refreshing attitude for a society which often tries to make people feel like being different isn't a good thing!

WHAT'S A GUARANTEED TURN ON FOR YOU? IT'S SUCH A TYPICAL GIRL THING, BUT A WELL FITTED SUIT AND A STRONG JAW, I JUST MELT! ALSO YOU CAN NEVER GO WRONG WITH A LITTLE BITE ON THE BACK OF THE NECK!

Photographer: Kitty KEMS









**FINALLY, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD
LIKE TO SAY TO THE ELITE READERS?**
JUST THAT I THINK YOU ARE ALL SUPER
FABULOUS, AND THANK YOU SO VERY
MUCH FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ
THIS INTERVIEW, I HOPE IT HASN'T PUT
YOU OFF ME *WINKS *



#F

*Chris
Beasley*

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Photographer : @_toadiephoto



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Photographer: Tripodski

Pixie Summer

So Pixie, did you enjoy your shoot for Elite? It was so rad! Tripodski cranked up the music and we had an awesome time!

You live in New Zealand - unless we find some hot aliens with tattoos, this is probably the furthest anyone has travelled to be in Elite. Haha, hot aliens I'd love to see that! I do! I live in Queenstown, it's sick. It's a massive party town surrounded by beautiful mountains full of rad super good looking humans, who doesn't like the sound of that?! It's probably the best place on earth! I made a cheeky trip back here for a couple of weeks to check in with the family and to go to Glastonbury! (Which was obviously amazing) I am super stoked to have got the opportunity to shoot for Elite whilst I was back in the UK.

Is New Zealand very different to UK? Which bands are big over there? Ah for sure, heaps different! There are more sheep than humans here... and everyone goes around saying 'Sweet as' and 'Chur Bro'! Haha! Ah NZ definitely needs to catch up on the music scene! It's pretty behind with the times. But I absolutely love Devilskin, they're an awesome female fronted metal band from NZ, you should all go check them out!

Looking through your Facebook page, it seems as if you're life's just one big party! Haha, I'm not gonna lie, it's pretty rad! I've been heaps lucky to be able to travel a lot the last few years and got to do some awesome things and see some amazing places. I'm currently writing this on the chairlift at Perisher in Australia on the way to the bar!







**SO WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU
SNOWBOARD... WHAT'S ALL THAT
ABOUT? I DO! I FREAKING LOVE IT!
IF I'M NOT AT WORK OR ASLEEP
YOU CAN FIND ME SHREDDING UP
THE MOUNTAIN. I'VE TRAVELLED
ALL THROUGH EUROPE, JAPAN,
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND
CHASING THE SNOW FOR THE LAST 5
YEARS. I PRETTY MUCH LIVE TO RIDE.**

Photographer: Tripodski

**SATAN IS WAITIN
SOCKS \$12.00**









ANY PLANS TO COME BACK OR HAVE WE LOST YOU TO THE PERMANENT GOOD WEATHER, SURFING AND BARBIES FOREVER? HAHA, I DON'T KNOW IF I'D SAY PERMANENT GOOD WEATHER, THE WEATHER IN NZ CAN GET PRETTY GNARLY HAHA. BUT I'D DEFINITELY LOVE TO STAY HERE FOR THE LONG TERM, IT'S SIMPLY AWESOME.

Photographer: Tripodski





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Laiika

THE SCOTTISH BABE MAKES HER RETURN

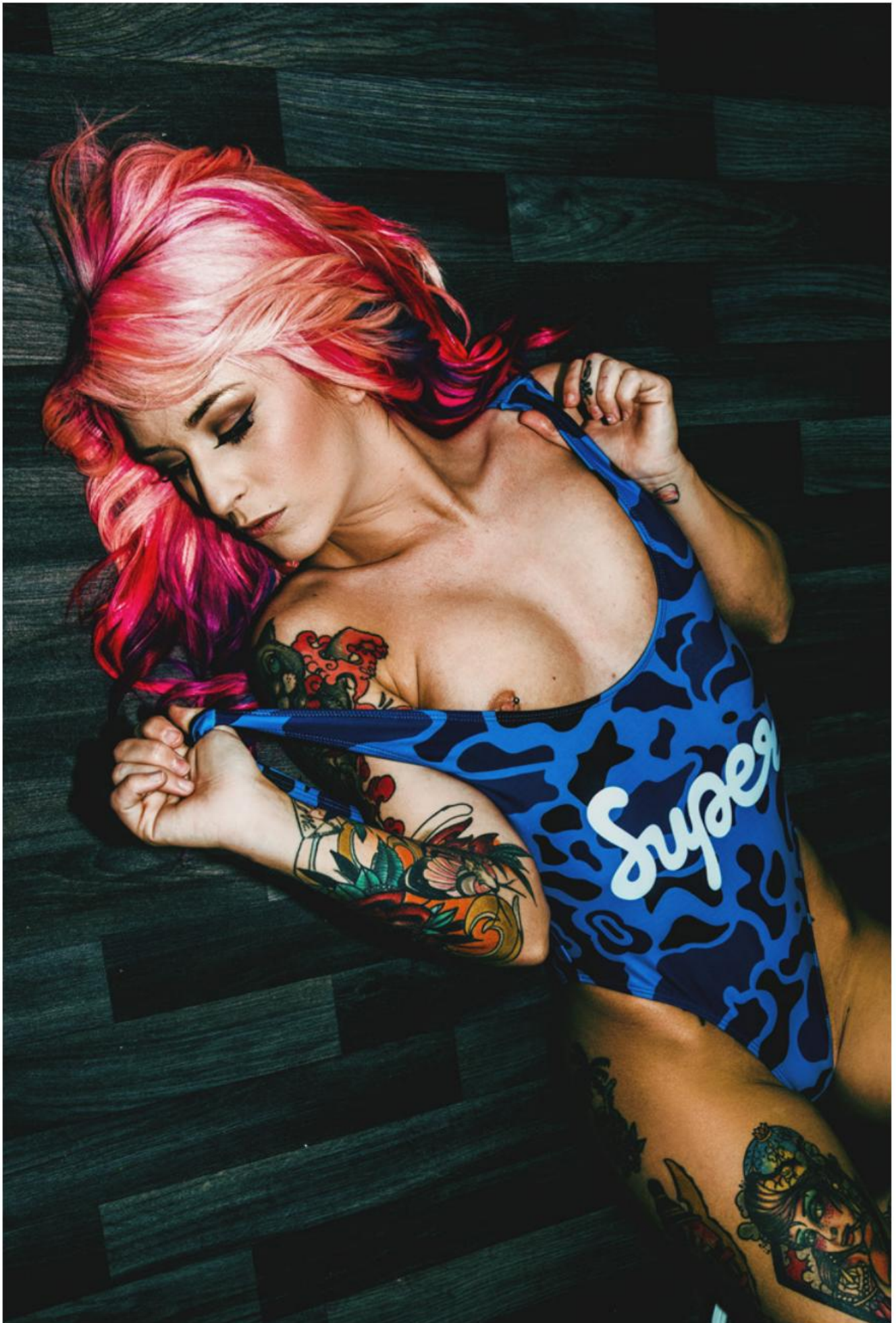
Photographer: Chris Beasley



So Laika, did you enjoy your shoot for Elite? Always! hanging out with hot babes and eating pizza... What's not to enjoy?

What was it like meeting all the babes on our mini Shootfest? It was awesome, we all had such a laugh!

You live in Scotland - does this mean you are one of the most northerly people to shoot with Elite? Ehh I think I might be! I'll have to hunt for some Scottish babes to bring with me next time!



If you can travel anywhere else in the world, where would it be and why? There's too many places! Australia, America, Thailand.. I love to experience new things!

So you have one of the best ASSets going right now... how do you keep up the booty gains? I follow a strict regime of eating Monster Munch and drinking Red Bull.. I really should go back to the gym!

Are there any others out there whose booty you appreciate? Mercedes Edison wins all the prizes for best booty!

Who is your favourite model right now? You can't make me choose just one! Nancy Trash, Becky Holt, Rebecca Fox, Rebecca Crow... Should I stop? Haha!

Ok standard interview question here... you are allowed to have dinner with 3 people... one has to be dead, one has to be alive and one has to be someone you want to exist but doesn't... who d you invite? Ok the dead person would be... Rik Mayall. Alive would be... Rihanna and made up would be... Finn and Jake from Adventure Time.

Looking through your Facebook page, it seems as if you're life's just ass and animals... this a fair assumption? Haha! I'd say it's mostly animals.. I'm a sucker for a cute furry face!

Photographer: Chris Beasley







Photographer: Chris Beasley

Super

**WHAT'S YOUR
FAVOURITE
BODY PART? ON
SOMEONE ELSE?
I'M A SUCKER
FOR A NICE SET
OF TEETH!**







Photographer: Chris Beasley

**ANY PLANS TO COME
BACK TO US OR IS THIS
THE LAST TIME WE WILL
SEE LAIKA? I WILL 100%
BE BACK, YOU'RE NEVER
GETTING RID OF ME!**

Model : @queencurbcheck
Photographer : @malcolm.flowers



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ADVENTURE TIME

with
Rebecca Gas
& Keshia

**CLOTHING BY
SOFT KITTY**



Hi Jas, welcome to Elite! How did you enjoy the shoot? Hi! I always enjoy photoshoots with you guys! You're awesome!

What was it like to work with Tripodski on this shoot? A pleasure as always, lots of giggles, singing and finally a little bit of shooting.

What was it like to work with Rebecca & Keshia? I had so much fun with these ladies! They are beautiful and boobiefull.

What's Rebecca & Keshia's best feature? Ass and Titties! Am I allowed to say that? Haha their personalities are amazing too ;)



JAS

**WHAT'S YOUR BEST FEATURE? I
WILL ALWAYS SAY BOOBIES WON'T
I ;) THEY ARE JUST TOO MUCH FUN.**

PHOTOGRAPHER: TRIPODSKI



JAS

Outside of modelling, do you have any other passions? Makeup Artistry and all things arty!

So how can a guy impress you? Being better than me at playing Streets Of Rage on the Sega Megadrive.

Who has been your favourite model of 2016 so far? I love so many, but Miss Annalieza has got to still be one of my fave ladies!

What is the naughtiest thing you've done? Hard to choose one thing :P

What's a guaranteed turn on for you? Bite my neck, ear and have beer on your breath, a good ass slap and motorbikes are sexy too hehe.

Beards - Yes or No? Usually no! They look like they tickle... but there is always exceptions.

What's the worst idea you have ever had? Trying to get on a trampoline when I was drunk, I managed to do a accidental forward roll on to it, and trapped my little finger in the spring in the process...didn't notice it was broken till the morning after!

Finally, is there anything you would like to say to the Elite readers? Stay sexy and find me on social media Instagram - @jasminelouisejones, Twitter @jlmua, Facebook - Jasmine Louise Jones. x



**CLOTHING BY
SOFT KITTY**



Hi Rebecca, welcome to Elite! How did you enjoy the shoot? Hey! It was awesome! There was pizza involved, so you can't go wrong!

What was it like to work with Tripodski on this shoot? I always have a blast working with him! He's a very good friend and always take the best shots of me.

What was it like to work with Jas & Keshia? Jas & Keshia are gorgeous inside and out, they're so easy to get on with and it was a pleasure to work with them both. I've met Jas before and we hit it off so I was excited to see her again!



REBECCA

WHAT'S JAS & KESHIA'S BEST FEATURE? JAS' IS HER FACE! SUCH BEAUTIFUL CHEEKBONES, BONE STRUCTURE TO DIE FOR. KESHIA'S IS HER BIG BEAUTIFUL EYES, SHE'S GOT SUCH EXPRESSIVE EYES!



**CLOTHING BY
SOFT KITTY**



What's your best feature?

Probably my butt, people like seem to like my butt haha.

What was the funniest thing to happen at the shoot?

Probably falling over, I can be a bit of a klutz.

Outside of modelling, do you have any other passions?

I'm a dancer and personal trainer, so I attend regular dance classes and hit the gym 3-4 times a week.

So how can a guy impress you?

Confidence without cockiness, pride without arrogance.

Who has been your favourite model of 2016 so far?

Linziebelle. I met her just a few days ago and I've absolutely fallen in love with her. She's the most beautiful girl, with a heart of gold and we instantly clicked. I think I got myself a very good friend in her.

What is the naughtiest thing you've done?

Err, stolen money out of my mums purse when I was a kid. I wasn't very good at it. I got caught... every time.

Beards - Yes or No?

Fuck no.

What's a guaranteed turn on for you?

A guy that's strong both physically and mentally. I can't stand needy or sappy guys. I'm not a romantic girl, but that's not to say I don't enjoy a bunch of flowers every now and again.

REBECCA

REBECCA

What's the worst idea you have ever had? Getting my sleeve finished in one sitting. Over 5 hours of tattooing, going over my elbow and into the crease of my armpit, lord Jesus it was excruciating.

Finally, is there anything you would like to say to the Elite readers? Peace out mother truckers!



PHOTOGRAPHER: TRIPODSKI







A full-page photograph of Keshia Layne lying on her back on a wooden floor. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. She has dark, wavy hair and is wearing a black choker, a silver bracelet, and a ring. She is wearing a strapless top with a vibrant, colorful cartoon print. To her left, there is a large pile of colorful clothing, including a purple shirt with a cartoon face and a rainbow-colored item. To her right, there are several small, colorful toys, including a yellow one and a blue one. The background is a wooden floor with a parquet pattern.

CLOTHING BY SOFT KITTY

KESHIA

Hi Keshia, welcome to Elite!
How did you enjoy the shoot?

Heyy! Yeah it was great although I had to dash shortly after to go pack for Japan the next day!

What was it like to work with Tripodski on this shoot? It's always a pleasure.

What was it like to work with Rebecca & Jas? They were super nice and easy to work with.

What's Rebecca & Jas' best feature? I love Jas' little face, hair and tattoos and Rebecca's toned body featuring an awesome booty!

What's your best feature? WABS!

What was the funniest thing to happen at the shoot? Probably getting cramp in my neck and having to put everything on pause until I could pose again, or having Adventure Time plastic figures thrown on us.

Outside of modelling, do you have any other passions? Cats, photography, travel and pizza!

So how can a guy impress you? Ask questions, be cool and smell nice.

Who has been your favourite model of 2016 so far? This is so tough but I love wor' Dannika!

What's a guaranteed turn on for you? Dominance.

Beards - Yes or No? YES!

What's the worst idea you have ever had? Filling out this interview when I could've been playing Pokemon.

KESHIA





PHOTOGRAPHER: TRIPODSKI



**WHAT IS THE NAUGHTIEST THING YOU'VE
DONE? POKEMON AND DRIVING.**

KESHIA

FINALLY, IS THERE
ANYTHING YOU WOULD
LIKE TO SAY TO THE ELITE
READERS? THANK YOU
MY LOYAL TROOP OF
FOLLOWERS AND IF YOU'RE
NOT ONE OF THEM, BE ONE!
@KAWAIIKESHIA OUT!



A photograph of two women with extensive tattoos posing on a grey couch. The woman in the foreground has long brown hair, a black choker, and large hoop earrings. She has a large black and white floral tattoo on her left shoulder and a colorful peacock feather tattoo on her right arm. She is resting her chin on her hand. The woman behind her has long blonde hair with pink tips and a nose ring. She has a large, colorful tattoo on her right arm. A pink banner in the top right corner reads "CLOTHING BY SOFT KITTY". The background includes a white radiator and a purple blanket with a cartoon cat face.

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REBECCA LOTUS PRESENTS

*Suicide Girls
Ballroom Blitz*

Photographer: Mike White





MEL CLARKE

Photographer: Mike White

I get such a buzz performing in front of a crowd. I've been a performer since I was little and I've always enjoyed putting on a show. Since being asked to perform at the Ballroom Blitz it's like I've gained another family. The girls I perform with are such incredible

people. The sense of love and admiration for each others skills is amazing, we appreciate each other rather than being jealous of what the others can do. It's such an eclectic mix of abilities you never quite know what's going to happen.



REBECCA CROW



BAMBI BLUE

REBECCA CROW



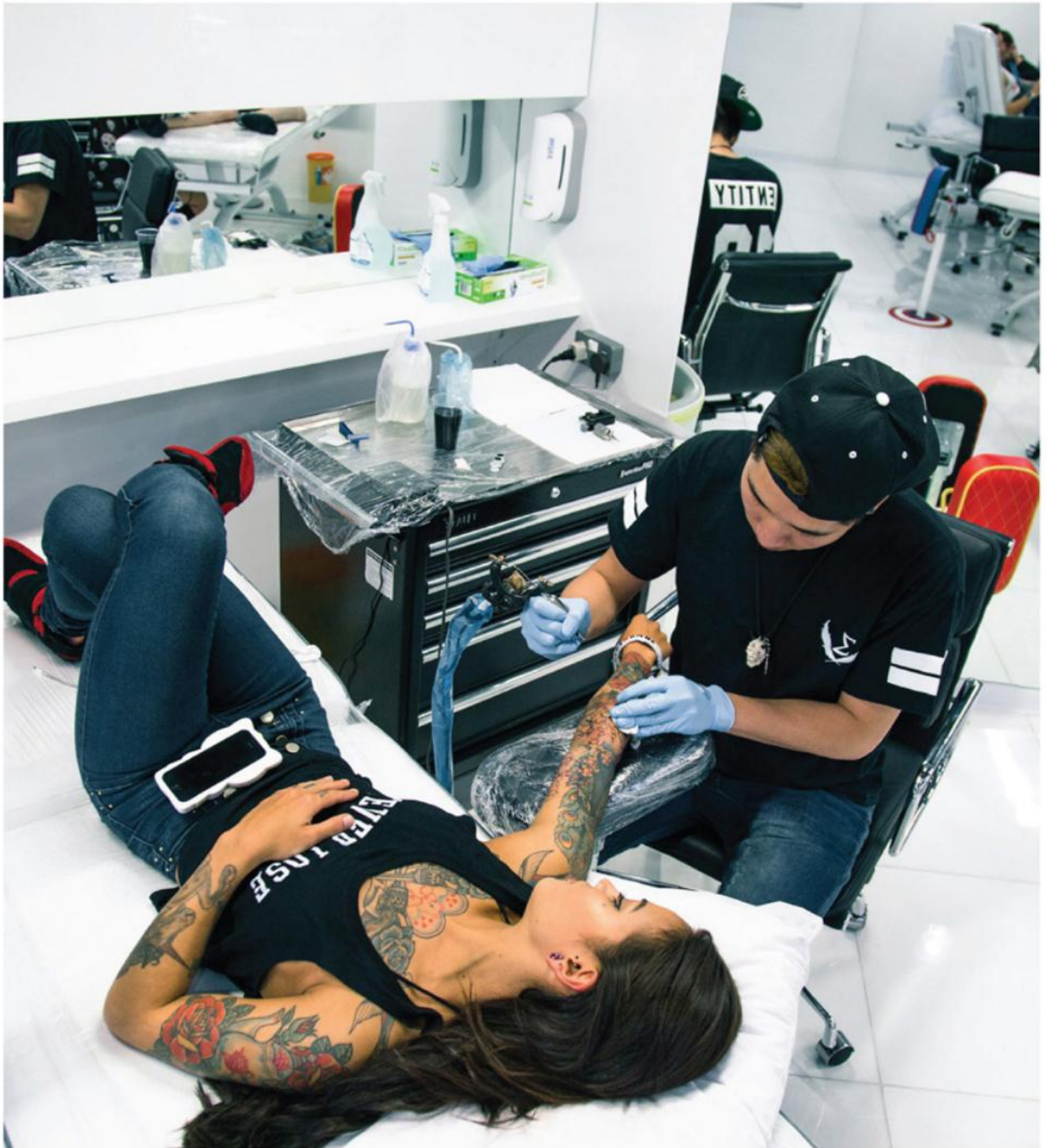
The attendees are awesome too, they make the show worth it. The atmosphere when you're on stage, looking out into the crowd seeing everyone having the times of their lives is such a high and knowing you're either making it happen or at least a part of it, it gives

you such a sense of pride and happiness.

I love the girls I perform with, my Blitz family are the best people to know in this industry. They're incredibly supportive, loving and they'll always be there for you when you're in need.

AURORA SILK





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THE QEMISTS

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SPANKY VAN DYKES (18+)

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BOTB WINNER
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MAIN BAR ACOUSTIC STAGE

RED ROOMS

THREE GIRL RHUMBA

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TECH FEST 2016

UK Tech Metal Festival affectionately referred to as Tech-Fest is celebrating its 5th incarnation this year offering its biggest line-up to date. Starting out at a small village community centre with one stage over 3 days Tech-Fest has grown to a three stage event spread over four days and offering a wide range of bands and specialist master classes.

The UK Tech scene has blossomed over the last 5-10 years and given birth to a vast array of strong talent on both ends of the tech-spectrum. Instrumental bands offering technical riffs and beautiful ambient passages are joined by tech-death bands delivering some of the most brutally powerful and technically executed riffs on the face of planet metal. Tech-fest has become the spiritual home of many experimentally advanced and progressive bands and the line-up at this year's event was the strongest yet.

Early bird Thursday kicked off the event with one stage offering a line-up of the heavier style of tech bands. **Seek Solace in Ruin** smashed through their set of tight formidable riffs with all the precision of expert craftsmen, if a little sedated in their movement, they still commanded a strong presence. Vocalist Joe's delivery on stand out track Plutonium Power Punch really sent shivers down the spine and was a great way to kick off the weekend.

Jonestown a tightly wound knot of tension break through the sound barrier and punching every crowd member squarely in the throat. Vocalist Harley Anderson's vocal delivery was forceful enough to tear eardrums in the process, exuding a stage presence of pure menace. Jonestown tore through savage track one after the other, with a stand out delivery on Mass Extinction Six where every member went full-on psychotic. A potent blend of technical death meets metalcore this band are one to watch out for should they come to your town, think DevilDriver meets Impending Doom. **Visions** had a tough act to follow but having a very different sound and approach helped them to execute a technically flawless blend of grove metal sounding like a potent blend of Glassjaw, Norma Jean and a sprinkling of Alexisonfire. A very fun and uplifting performance in stark contrast to the downright dirty music on offer so far and a welcome change.





No Consequence are festival favourites, playing every year so far and always enforce a powerful and emotional performance. Vocalist Kaan is impeccable in his performance engaging with the crowd and soulfully executing both searing screams and hauntingly melodic cleans. The whole band go crazy throughout their set and drummer Colin Bentham keeps them all in perfect time throughout. **Napoleon** round off the day with a great performance and really go for it in their delivery. Their blend of technically brilliant uplifting guitar melodies and crunching riffs set the crowd a light. Guitarist Sam Osborn produces feels a plenty with his intricate lead lines woven into the mix of powerful fast paced rhythmical riffs reminiscent of Killswitch Engage blended with Volumes or Northlane. Certainly a strong performance and a band to be seen live.

Tech-fest's location is perfectly suited to being loud and noisy. Set in the middle of practically no-where, there are very few neighbours to annoy and therefore affords it the ability to keep the party going until late. This year's first after party sees the brutal and always fun **Aghast** kick things off in spectacular style with their blend of tech-metalcore and riotous vocals the likes of which are destined to get your neck snapped from excessive head banging. It's almost impossible not to enjoy every track these guys put out and jump around crazily to every banging beat down. Bringing the first day of Tech-Fest to a close **Pteroglyph** discharge dynamic riffs upon the congregation, dowsing them in pure breakneck thumping tracks that not only slam against the auditory cortex with wild abandon but stimulate the limbic system to near euphoria. This band just get better every time they play, having recently secured a place at Bloodstock be sure to check them out if you're going, you won't be disappointed.

Zephyr kick started the Friday day with a frontman who looks more like a "towny" than a metal-head Cameron Alexander Thomson manages to deliver one of the most diverse vocal performances of the weekend, swinging between raping, spoken word, singing and a range of different screams, proof positive you can't judge a book by its cover. Energetic and chaotic they really set the pace for the day ahead. **Novena** opened the main stage with their first ever live performance, a band comprised of members of Haken, No sin evades his gaze and Clockwork this tech-super-group could give the mighty Opeth a run for their money, with epic soundscapes and beautiful melodies blended together to make for an extremely engaging and enjoyable experience, especially when they play just one long 30 minute song.

Make Me A Donut tune down and turn it up to 11 with a set that really packs a truly ferocious punch. Guitar wizardry that has to be witnessed was the main focus for this Swiss quintet. The guttural vocals from Valentin Miéville are so visceral they tear the very sinew from bone, even if slightly monotone in their delivery. **Harbinger** maintain the merciless theme and blast through their set like a storm of screaming banshees, fast paced metalcore style riffs overlaid with haunting lead lines and backed up with animalistic screams from frontman Tom Gardner, a fast paced, high octane set that kept up the pace from start to finish.

No Sin Evades His Gaze brought the pain to the table and broke the table in half, smashing through crowd favourites Filth and The Art of Sedation with faultless ease. Guitarist Dan Thornton stalking the stage and producing some of the best live solo work of the weekend, especially on new track Preacher. The whole band were highly energised and didn't relent until the very last moment. Strong delivery by this tight outfit with a new release imminent.



Plini returned to tech fest this year with even more feels than last year, enlisting the help of Intervals creator Aaron Marshal on guitar they brought an altogether uplifting and delightful set of some of Plini's best compositions. Highlights included Heart and Tarred and Feathered. A purely instrumental set that never for one moments gets tiresome, where some bands lacking vocals can be slightly at a disadvantage when it comes to crowd engagement Plini doesn't suffer this at all and has the entire mainstage audience mesmerised from the opening lick. **Disperse** were on top form showing off new drummer Mike Malyan and playing a range of tracks from their debut album and sophomore follow up, even treating the congregation to a new track from their upcoming third release. Melody rich with technical brilliance Disperse show how tracks can be crafted into a pure form of auditory joy. Intervals reversed the roles with Plini joining Aaron to delight the crowd with a cross section of his best tracks from such a strong back catalogue. Playing with the biggest grin on his face Aaron thrilled the assembly with impeccable ease showing just what can be achieved with instrumental creativity and a lot of heart. Faster paced than Plini but no less progressive and enthralling Intervals really kept up the quality and laid the foundation for the evening's headliners.

Animals as Leaders are one of those bands that have to be seen to be believed. The technical abilities

of both guitarists Tosin Abasi and Javier Reyes are unbelievable, accompanied by the exceptional drumming of Matt Garstka they form all the parts of a truly mesmerising live experience. Their set pays particular attention to the heavier moments of their catalogue, AAL play almost non-stop for more than 90 minutes of pure unadulterated technical brilliance, a band who truly redefine how music can be played on guitar.

The end of Friday was night was taken care of with one of Tech-Fests legendary super-jams. Where members of various bands from the weekend come together for an impromptu improvised jam session, this year's mix included many of the scenes finest members and really was a unique experience, one of the many reasons why tech-fest is unlike any other festival offering some once in a lifetime experiences.

Saturday saw **The Parallax Metho** open the main stage with a set of instrumental tech-metal, playing a range of mostly grove based funky tunes they fall fowl of being in the wake of a previous nights over indulgence of instrumental brilliance that doesn't give them enough room to breathe. Dividium are an energetic bunch of nice guys, displaying a set of metalcore very much in the vein of Killswitch Engage or a heavier cousin perhaps. Fun and powerful they grace the crowd to several really accessible tracks, their standout



tune Eternity sees vocalist Neil Bailey really hitting all the right notes.

From Sorrow to Serenity kick things up a notch and down a few steps with their down tuned beat down laden set of pure unrelenting power-riffs and double time post hardcore punk-esk beats. They breeze through their set with maximum intensity and energy paving the way for the remainder of the day's heavier bands. **Loathe** kick off with a masked frontman reminiscent of Corey Taylor's mask but a little more lowfi, however this doesn't detract from his capacity for surging screams and an ominous stage presence. Pounding through vicious onslaughts of aggression they leave a lasting impression on the crowd. **Belial** take up the baton and sprint to the finish line with a strong performance of guttural growls and fast paced blast beats, framed with atmospherics that create a powerful performance, another band that has to be witnessed. Vocalist Jamie Harrison vomiting up some of the day's most guttural offerings splattered with real visceral venom. A truly head caving set of monumental proportions.

Destiny Potato change things up a bit with their very different sound compared to the majority of the day's tech-death metal. A much more grove based and all together more uplifting experience with vocalist Aleksandra Djelmas demonstrating not only beautiful clean vocals, some of the best of the weekend, but also her ability to scream on par with the boys, highlights of the set include Indifferent and Addicted.

Fallujah take the meaning tight and redefine it on an altogether new level. Locking the guitars and base drum in such awe inspiring fashion they crush the congregation with riffs heavier than a fleet of juggernauts. Fallujah played an exclusive UK set forged from the fires of mount doom and executed with sniper like precision they left few untouched in their wake of destruction. Playing a range of tracks from their back catalogue including most recent album hits like The void alone and older favourites like Carved from Stone. Blending moments of pure ambient excellence with lung collapsing heavy riffs Fallujah is one band that every metal fan should be listening to.

Protest the Hero brought the evening to a close with their signature blend of crazily complex riffs, uplifting guitar tones and soaring vocals courtesy of vocalist Rody Walker, who is not only spectacularly impressive in his performance but has great stage presence. They played a variety of their most technically brilliant hits, including massive tunes like Bloodmeat and Sequoia Throne. Protest really hit all the right chords here and demonstrate why they are one of the greats in the tech scene.

After a weekend plagued by heavy winds and rain Sunday brings with it the sunshine. **Pravitas** bring high energy and expertly crafted riffs to the table and lay waste to the competition. Complicated riffs echo a Sitch like style with rhythmical elements that are impeccably rendered accompanied by intricate leads that could be straight out of a Scale the Summit album. A potent blend of talented young guys this Leeds based quintet should be on your playlist. **Fronteier** maintained an unrelenting barrage of riffs, blast beats, breakdowns and screaming vocals dealt with such damaging ferocity they left an indelible mark on the eardrums. Elements of Dillinger Escape plan can be heard within the mix and the high end guitar squeals sound like they're straight out of the Texas chainsaw massacre.

Shields try their hardest to outdo the competition with a live performance full of boundless energy and aggression, they use every inch of the stage to their advantage and really pack a punch, and sadly it's hard to stand out in a crowd when the crowd is made up of some of the best talent the scene has to offer. Crowd pleaser Guilt goes down well, and vocalist Joe Edwards commands the crowd well. **Haken** one of Britain's most creative progressive bands, graced the audience with a set of their most engaging and prog-driven songs, including fan favourite the Cockroach king. A solid performance here and a welcome change to a line-up of exceptionally heavy bands over the weekend. Interesting pit performances from the crowd and some real surprises from the band, including fantastic A Capella moments make Haken a nice change of pace.

Novelists put out one of the strongest albums of 2015 and their set complemented that album so well in its delivery. The mixture of energetic riffs and haunting leads make for an altogether ethereal feel to their set and they close the second stage with style. Powerful, impressive and well executed Novelists are a band that have a lot to offer and a long prosperous road ahead of them. Textures headlined the first ever tech fest back in 2012 and returned this year with a set full of technical mastery. Vocalist Daniël de Jongh commands a strong stage presence which kept the room in the palm of his hand as they tore through so many great hits including Awake and Arms of the sea. Blending seamlessly into the mix their new tracks from recent release Phenotype. The precision that textures exude is hard not to be impressed by and they are one of the legendary tech bands that everyone must see at least once.

Between The Buried And Me are one of the all-time greats in the progressive metal genre. Stretching their creative limits to the maximum with each new album they've outdone themselves with recent offering Coma Ecliptic and the impeccable delivery of hits The Coma Machine and The Ectopic Stroll are testament to their abilities. Creating a rich tapestry of musical brilliance they unleashed fantastic hit one after the other, with a particular highlight including old favourite Selkies: the Endless Obsession. A fitting end to a fantastic weekend of breakthrough artists and pioneers in experimental progressive music that is truly at the bleeding edge of modern metal.

Techfest is unlike any other festival, not only in stature and music but in the general vibe and ambience of the place. Over the weekend many great artist gave tutorials and masterclasses on their instruments with practical advice and insight into how to grow as a musician. Tech-fest may be a festival where the majority of attendees are musicians, however that shouldn't put you off, if anything it's a testament to the quality of music being performed over the 4 days. Take a chance and next year get yourself a ticket to the most modestly priced festival with the highest possible amount of talent per pound.

Words by Jay Shields | Photos by Oli Duncanson



TECH FEST 2016





2000 TREES FESTIVAL

Granting us our first taste of the festival **Milk Teeth** rock a packed stage in The Cave. They meld the three chord grunge pop and quiet/loud dynamics of the nineties scene with a precocious and infectious energy on stage. Tracks like Brick Work cause convulsions in the crowd, and vocalist/bassist Becky Bloomfield elicits cheers with a shout out for her transgender friend during the set. This is a band that looks on the verge of graduating to even bigger stages in the very near future.

Xtra Mile's **Rob Lynch** takes to The Axiom stage for a set of folk tinged country music, providing a very different vibe to Milk Teeth, but managing to control the audience in his own way. There's a scattered but highly appreciative crowd, who can't help but spontaneously break into dance and sing alongs for the length of the performance. Rob and his band end their set by coercing the crowd into singing "no, no, no, it's not the end of the world," and they exit the stage victorious.



As **Black Peaks** take to the stage eyes can't help but be drawn to singer Will Gardner; dressed like a demented 80's metalhead, he embodies this with a combination of wide eyes, denim jacket and ear piercing screams which abound. Tracks such as Glass Built Castles garner a massive crowd reaction, with the audience roaring back every word. Will and guitarist Joe Gosney stalk the stage, occasionally venturing towards the crowd, coaxing surges forward and circle pits. The bass tone on Say You Will cuts through the audience like a knife, and feels loud enough and powerful enough to

demolish buildings. There was a weight of expectation surrounding their set, and they delivered. Based on the reaction from the audience, which stretches far back from the tent entrance, it's safe to say that a 30 minute set feels far too short.

The sound is crystal clear and crisp for **The Xcerts** brand of big sounding Pop Rock, as they run through their staple set. The faithful down the front manages to cheer extensively throughout but there is a distinct feeling of malaise as they fail to match the sense of

excitement reached by Black Peaks, and most people's ears are still buzzing from that.

Scottish indie band **We Were Promised Jetpacks** played a thirty minute set, but it feels much longer. Songs take forever to get going, and it feels like a set full of build up with no pay off, and little if anything memorable about it even immediately after that fact.

In an effort to add some differentiation between their previous set on The Cave stage **Black Peaks** offer a stripped down acoustic take on songs from debut album *Statues*, punctuated with brief explanations from Will about the various song's meanings. It's fascinating to hear the songs in a new light and an entertaining saxophone driven Jack Garret cover manages to prevent this set from simply being a more reserved rehash of what the festival has just seen. However the set runs only half as long as billed, which is a major disappointment and a large black mark for an otherwise compelling performance.

Billed as a special guest, **Frank Turner** headlines the Axiom stage. As with Black Peaks it feels like he exceeds his surroundings, and it is a testament to the man's star power that he can utterly enrapture an audience with nothing more than his songs and an acoustic guitar. Running through 2009's *England Keep My Bones* in full the crowd sings along with every word, and sways in time to the music. However, it is mildly disappointing that on the tenth anniversary of Campfire Punk Rock, which even saw Frank signing copies at the merchandise desk prior to the set, that the only song from that era played was *The Ballad of Me and My Friends*. It is a minor quibble, but a set encompassing all eras of his post Million Dead career would have been more appreciated.

Before the end of their first song **The Bronx's** vocalist Matt Caughthran has ended up in the midst of the front row as the LA veterans unleash wave upon wave of punk rock fury on the baying crowd. The between song banter toes the line between the absurd and the political, as they cannot help but touch upon the recent referendum results, "The future of England is most definitely instilled in the hands of the motherfucking Bronx!" becomes their rally cry as they mount a rock and roll coup. The crowd are nothing short of riotous throughout, and the sense of gratitude as they announce that this will be the only their only UK appearance in this tour cycle. The end of the first day of 2000 Trees has seen a neat divide between the mellow, and the heavy. Thankfully it chose to end on a high, screamed note, as people blunder out of the tent, half deaf and disoriented and ready to gather themselves for round two.

After a light spot of laughter yoga with Joe to help shake loose the cobwebs, **Monarks** take to the stage to open proceedings with their brand of delay drenched indie pop. They're musically competent but the early songs of their set lack impact or urgency. Things liven up in the second half of the set as they proceed to play some more upbeat rock songs, but sadly they inevitably settle back into slow



clean guitars drenched in delay. They're at their best when they're playing loud riffs and would be well served to do more of it.

Reigning Days prove to be one of the surprise highlights of the festival, an alternative rock three piece with a big sound, and an army of riffs. The major criticism of their set is that the lead guitar parts are too low in the mix, which is one of the perils of being a three piece. The band ends with the driving rock of track Renegade, which sees the bassist completing a lap of honour in the crowd; to a mixture of both cheers and surprise. Definitely a band worth checking out

What they lack in immediacy **Press to Meco** make up for with technicality proficient angular rock performed with personality. The tent is utterly packed for Meco's set, and people are going wild for it. The band favoured math inflected technical rock has plenty to enjoy and is not short of its own hooks, such as the head shaking riff of Diffusion of Responsibility and gang vocals. Another band to keep an eye on.

Trash Boat thrash their way through a set which sounds incredibly 90's. They shake people out of their midday lethargy with their infectious three chord skate punk sound, going so far as to inspire some pogoing as the set progresses. Vocally they don't sound a million miles away from Upsides era The Wonder Years. As their set ends it leaves the feeling

that the kind of music they play, they play well, but it's incredibly shallow and derivative, and throwaway.

The first trip to the main stage bears fruit in the form of the Dutch Hardcore stalwarts **John Coffey**. A brief political mention regarding the European refugee crisis draws some cheers, but otherwise the aural assault and between song banter remains generally apolitical. The band throws out riff after riff, and move around stage like men possessed, when they're not crowd surfing. The vocals being too quiet in the mix offers some complaints from both crowd and front man for the midfield soundstage, and sadly slightly dampens what is otherwise a masterclass in punk rock fury.

The tight surroundings of **The Cave** are much more suited to this kind of music than the main stage as serves the live wire home grown talents of Palm Reader well. Their set offers a mixture of the old and new, breaking up their fast and metallic tinged hardcore just often enough to stop them from feeling like a one trick pony. The new material sounds more atmospheric and doom inflected, and wins the crowd over as their set ends with loud chants of the band's name as they leave the stage.

Showing no shine of rust in their first gig of the year **Krokodil** juxtapose the nascent sunshine with their brand of extreme metal. Less pace driven than the majority of Palm Reader's set, but no less heavy for it. The three guitarists blend together to create a gloriously groovy cacophony.





From the sublime to the stupid, **Kagoule's** meandering indie pop rock meets turgid psychedelia sputters onto the Axiom stage next. The vocals are the usual indie fare, occasionally punctuated by atonal yelps. There is very little to recommend here.

Neck Deep don't allow small issues like the vocal's repeatedly cutting out from marring their set. Like the band's perfectly summarised marketing says, they play generic pop punk. Much like Trash Boat, there is nothing new to see here, this is pop punk in stereo vision, writ against the large backdrop of the main stage. Admittedly they do this bigger and better than a lot of other bands, but the lack of originality and variation in the music means that all but the most ardent of fans is bored by the end.

Providing a career retrospective thus far, as well as new songs like the equal parts angular and anthemic XL, **Twin Atlantic** bring their stadium sized anthems to 2000 Trees. With the exception of a sloppy sounding Edit Me played early on this is a very polished set. Crowd interaction is encouraged by frontman Sam McTrusty as he demands the audience perch down in a similar way to what you'd expect during the climax to Slipknot's Spit It Out, letting the crowd know, "I'm not fucking kidding, we will wait until you all sit down", before inevitably demanding they all jump. Contrived, but enjoyable in the heat of the moment none the less, Introducing a cello for a crowd led sing along of Crash Land marks a high point as the crowd comes together, and the band leaves victorious.

Kicking off the final day of festivities is Leeds' own **NARCS**. Seconds into their opening set their own frontman has gone arse over tit in front of the drum kit. This proves to set the tone for their set, as the band ragdoll their bodies across the stage and unleash blasts of cathartic alternate rock fury. Employing an aggro punk spirit they get into the crowd to scream in people's faces, but manage to keep their music from being simplistic noise with some interesting guitar work and lead sections. The more intricate aspects of their music risks being lost on an open stage such as this, therefore the band decides instead to double down on their chaotic elements. It's a scrappy

display of pure energy that sees both singer and guitarist enter the crowd and maraud all the way to the sound desk located in the middle of the main stage area on multiple occasions. As the set goes on, particularly during the aptly titled audio batter of The Breakers, you can practically see the will to live draining from the stage crews eyes. As we watch a suicidal scissorkick from the stage to the floor to open set closer The Great Hardcore Swindle it's hard not to think that Refused will have to deliver a blinder to top this.

The bustle of this stage is the busiest it has been all weekend, as the singer songwriter and former frontman of the much loved and much missed cult heroes **Reuben, Jamie Lenman**, begins a set of sing along covers to a sardine tight packed crowd. There are feel good renditions of classics like The Beatles Help!, Weezers Buddy Holly and Queen's Crazy Little Thing Called Love, which all earn loud cheers. Lenman is effortlessly charming, and offers some genuinely funny and endearing snippets between the music. There are some curveballs in the set as well, such as a leftfield cover of Cyndi Lauper, and a medley closer of Neighbours with a Home and Away theme for the bridge! A set that couldn't be further removed from Heck's if it tried, but one that still manages to be equally compelling.

Opening with a blistering rendition of Pull My Finger the progressive metal titans, **SikTh** draw heavily from debut album The Trees are Dead and Dried Out... and recent EP Opacities to issue a statement of intent to the crowd, and any metal bands who may have had their eye on the progressive metal crown in their absence. They induce continuous bouts of circle pits, numerous crowd surfers and several crowd surges. New vocalist Joe acquits himself nicely, both in the technical aspects of his performance and his rapport with the crowd, as he repeatedly heads to the front barrier to meet the baying crowd.

The Axiom is utterly heaving as once again **Jamie Lenman** graces the stage. The back to back of Shotgun House and Pretty Please has the crowd shouting along from the very off. Couple this with more of Lenman's amusing and charming between song banter, and a set



A photograph of a male musician with a beard and tattoos, wearing a black shirt and jeans, playing a red and black electric guitar on stage. The background shows the metal scaffolding of a festival stage and a circular light fixture with orange lights.

2000 TREES FESTIVAL

that includes classic Reuben songs such as Moving to Blackwater and Let's Stop Hanging Out, and guest spots from members of Arcane Roots and The St. Pierre Snake Invasion and you have a perfect early evening set. It's a shame that Lenman repeatedly states his distaste for performing, as he looks like he was born for the stage.

The weekend is now nearing its end as the legendary **Refused** take to the main stage. Resplendent in a red suit and flares, paired with black shirt and silver medallion, singer Dennis looks like a punk rock loving extra from Saturday Night Fever and pairs it with some truly awe inspiring dance moves. In contrast to other heavy bands this weekend, the remainder of the band provide a low energy performance, mostly staying rooted to the spot, but with songs like Refused are Fucking Dead! And Refused Party Program it doesn't make a lick of difference. The sound issues that have bothered the main stage throughout the weekend are long a thing of the past by this point, and every word and chord rings out clear. The band show they've still not abandoned their political ideals, mentioning the giant referendum shaped elephant in the room early in the set, and making mentions of it again as the set progresses. Dennis gives an impassioned speech before their final song, calling on the festival to address the gender balance of male to female performers, asking for a 50-50 split within 5 years. Once his peace has been made the band launches into the modern classic that is New Noise and 2000 Trees' crowd loses its shit for one last time. Flawless.

Words by Robert Burns | Photos by Carl Battams

WIRELESS FESTIVAL

FINSBURY PARK, LONDON
8TH-10TH JULY
(FRIDAY ONLY)

London's Wireless festival, located in the heart of north London has always been seen as the capitals, if not the countries, number one hip hop event. This year hosting the likes of Calvin Harris, The 1975, J Cole, Chase & Status and Boy Better Know.

Kicking off day one of the festival, 21-year-old rising star **Petite Meller**. Being a non-camping three-day festival the vibe here is totally different to your average crowd. No muddy clothes and layered up hardened campers can be seen amongst the thousands, this weekend they have been replaced with a living top shop army with an average age of 16. Opening up a stage can be a daunting task but the French singer captivates the already lively crowd in the pal of her hand. Drawing obvious influences both sonically and visually from artists such as Die Antwoord, Meller's falsetto child-like voice and brightly coloured toucan head piece, you can sure this wont be the last time you hear her name.







Next up, London's very own **Kwabs**. Bringing his own signature smooth R&B mixed with electronica sound to the main stage and providing the perfect summer sound track. Complete with full live backing band the singer shows that this style of music isn't just for record and can translate perfectly into the live environment.

Some 200 miles away at the festival's second stage, another young female is showing London that the girls are out in full force today. 20-year-old **Dua Lipa** is a starlet in the making. Combining the heavy bass driven sounds of artists like Halsey, with Dua's raw sex appeal and it's no surprise that everyone is fixated on the singer's performance.

Miguel is an artist that has great success on the British Isles over the last few years culminating in his last show in London at a sold out Brixton O2. When it comes to sheer performance and showman ship there are not many on this line up that can match up to the Californian singer. Arriving on stage in full white to sync up with his backing band, Miguel changes the tempo of the entire day. With smooth talking songs such as "Coffee" playing opposite to tracks such as "The

Valley" which in comparison is straight up porn. With an arsenal of high kicks, splits and glides that Michael Jackson himself would have been proud of, Miguel solidifies his status as one of the new kings of R&B.

Once every few years a band comes along that has the ability to take over the world. With their second album "I Like it when you sleep, for you are so beautiful yet so unaware of it" **The 1975** have done exactly that. From breaking American and touring constantly for 2 and a half years off their debut release, culminating in a massive 3 sold out nights at London's Alexandra Palace. Matt Healy and co. show us how they've perfected their art form and deliver a performance that leaves us questioning why they aren't headlining the entire event itself. Opening with recent single "Love Me" the crowd are transformed into a several thousand strong bum bag-wearing choir. A set that is perfectly balanced with older fan favorites such as "Chocolate" and "Girls" lets in newer tracks such as "UGH!" and finally finishing with latest single "The Sound". When this band come back to the UK for a headline arena tour at the end of the year with an incredible two dates at London O2 Arena, it's no



doubt that it will solidify their place amongst the upper echelons of British rock music.

Finishing up Friday night, headliner **Calvin Harris** takes to the stage. An artist who has the British record for most top ten tracks from a single album in the top ten chart, Grammy award winner and the highest paid DJ for three years running. Starting as he means to go on. The world famous DJ is introduced on stage by no other than the fresh prince of Bel Air himself Will Smith, with special guests Dizzee Rascal and Big Sean joining the party for a few numbers. Calvin makes the

green expanse of Finsbury Park feel like it could be anything from the beaches of Miami to the most exclusive clubs in Ibiza. Armed with more fireworks than the 4th of July, Calvin's fully earns his right to be this year's headliner. With a set list comprised of the some of the biggest EDM tracks of the last 10 years, Calvin is showing London he's a force to be reckoned with. There is no question why Calvin Harris is recognized as one of the most prolific DJ's in the world right now.

Words by Tom Russell

Photos by Tom Russell



ANIMALS AS

Gearing up to headline UK Tech Fest's main stage, we grabbed some time with the man behind Animals as Leaders, Tosin Abasi!

Today is the first day of your European Tour and you're here getting ready to headline Tech Fest! Are you looking forward to it? Absolutely, we haven't been here in over a year and a half I think.

What did you enjoy most last time you were here? Curry, some of the best curry I've had is in the UK. But seriously it's great to play outside of the US to fans who don't get to see us as often. The UK is cool because it's an English speaking country and culturally there are a lot of parallels which is nice as it feels like a second home.

You must get a lot of time to kill while travelling on tour! What do you do to keep yourself occupied? Tinder (laughs), read, the internet, chill out, watch movies and joke about. I actually like it when the bus doesn't have a games console, coz the constant laser noises or soundtracks can become very annoying.

Touring with Plini and Intervals this is a phenomenal group of instrumental talent, could we possibly see any collaborations? Possibly as the tour progresses, but our set is the length of time we have allocated, so I don't know if there is a tonne of time to do a jam or something, I know we all want to, but we'll have to see what time allows for as the tour progresses. Currently we're just trying to get through it.



LEADERS

If you could collaborate with anyone, who would be on your wish list? Square pusher, Aphex Twin, Noisia, Bjork, I mean like it would be cool to have Allan Holdsworth perform on some of our tracks, like a cool chord progression or something. Coella would be cool, she's a friend of mine she's a singer.

When preparing for a tour how do you chose your set, do you rehearse everything so you can you do requests? Absolutely not, our songs are not the type of material you can just whip out. They're so intricate and complex so it doesn't serve us to learn 100% of the catalogue.

So how do you chose what to play? Do fans ever approach you after shows and wish you'd played a "their" song? It happens, but when you're headlining

you get a good amount of time and it's easy to pick all the songs you think are obvious, you try to make a flow, like an arc to the set, you try to choose it so that it doesn't fatigue people as well.

What is your writing process? Do you guys jam things out or you do have a process you tend to follow? That's rare, usually I'll have a bunch of riffs, or Javier will have a bunch of riffs, we'll track them into a computer and start programming drums to get a general skeleton of a song to begin with. We write new parts and extend the composition from there. Previously it's all been guitar based, but on the new album there's a song that Matt wrote on drums and we wrote our guitar to his drums, which is the reverse of our normal process and it came out really cool. He's actually written more on this album than on any other,

as there are specific riffs that are written from the drum perspective as opposed to the guitar perspective.

Of all the techniques you've developed which was the most challenging to master? Don't know, I still think alternate picking is really hard depending on the phase. You'd be surprised it's not always the fastest or the most complicated things that give you trouble, sometimes doing a finger picking part at a low dynamic with a slow tempo can be a balancing act and it's super hard meanwhile you can sweep all day long and not even think about it.

If you could pick a dream line-up of 3 bands from all time, who would you want to tour with? I still really like Meshuggah, but I don't know dude, maybe Rage against the machine, I dunno man. That's really difficult.

If you could click your fingers and play any instrument, what would you choose? Probably Piano or Drums? They're both super important, I'd probably say piano. I mean I could always just learn the piano, it's probably not that hard when compared to something like the cello where you can't even produce a quality tone for quite a while. At least with piano you press a key and get a note.

If you accidentally murdered someone on your tour bus, who in the band would you enlist to help you hide the body and why? Javier, because he's big. He could help me carry the body, he does cross fit.

Words by Jay Shields



INTERVALS

Kicking off their EU tour with Animals as Leaders, we caught up with Aaron Marshall of Intervals to have a chat about upcoming projects, influences and more!

You're kicking off the first day of your EU tour here at Tec-Fest! Are you looking forward to it? Yes day one of a six week European tour, looking forward to it very much, it's only my 2nd time on this continent so I'm stoked.

How do you find Europe different to playing in the US and Canada? It's pretty different, some

similarities, but it's pretty different in things like hospitality and overall mentality. Touring with bands here is a lot more communal, this is the second time we've shared a bus with the headliner. We were here in 2014 with Protest the Hero and Tesseract and it's now myself Plini and Animals as leaders, and it's good. Fans are very receptive to this kind of music over here, which is very noticeable and it makes for a very positive experience.

Do you find the reception differs from country to country? Yeah I'm not going to say there are

any negative shows or anything but the reactions can be difference from place to place. Germany for example some places they're like on the ceiling and other times you don't even know they're there based on how polite people are, you know. You'll come off stage wondering if anyone was digging it and you go out into the crowd and everyone really enjoyed the show, it's just hard to read sometimes. I remember we played a show in Luxemburg to like a thousand people in an airplane hangar and everyone's just dead silent, but it was one of the best nights and everyone was super appreciative. UKs much more vocal, playing in Spain and it's like soccer chants on the quarter note where everyone is so fired up.

There seems to be a big rise in instrumental bands lately, you had vocals on A Voice Within but have returned to instrumental on The Shape of Colour, was that a conscious decision? It was probably what I would call the natural evolution of things, implementing vocals and trying to be open minded and give that a shot was definitely a conscious decision, we wanted nothing but the best for that, and unfortunately this journey has it's ups and it's downs and it didn't really work out the way we intended, and rather than capsizing the ship and calling it off, the most honest and natural thing for me to do was grab the wheel again and try to make music that felt as honest and intuitive to me as possible, so that's what this whole things is about.

You've collaborated with artists all over the world, do you think the power of the internet and modern recording techniques make it easier to do that? Yeah I think it's beneficial, it is an amazing experience and the capacity in which I've done this the most is with guest solos, I think that that's where people see this the most. Full on collaboration like a body of work written by a group of individuals all over the world is something I've not really taken a stag at yet. I think it's safe to say that people shouldn't be surprised if Plini and I put something out together, but we've spent a lot of time together this year, and after Europe I'm heading down to Australia with him so we'll have a little more time to work on something. That's a little different, a little more old school, two guys in the same room, hashing it out, the way it should be, I believe anyway. It's not that there is anything to be said about creative music digitally and apart from one another but there is a veil

of anonymity that exists when you separate the artists by the vast abyss that is the internet, you know, and just send everything to each other with just 1s and 0s, and I don't mean Djent riffs. So you know I think modern advances and tools, assets like that are great, that allows people to come together and create music globally is great, but it's not the same as being in the same room together and making instantaneous suggestions and bounce off each other. Recording a passage and sending it to each other you never know what head space you're going to be in when you hear it or how it's going to progress.

What was the first music you were listening to, what got you into music in the first place? Pop-punk, metal, techy shit, thrash, I used to listen to a lot of Sum41 when I was a little dweeb, I discovered a lot of the Fat record bands, No use for a name, Me first and the Gimme Gimmes, Lagwagon, Alkaline trio, Strung out were probably the biggest influence on me, I found that you could take pop punk and skate punk and turn it up, way up and riff hard to. Protest the Hero, home town boys, really bridged the gap for me, it was like that techy skate punk shit that got me into it, and if you talk to Protest they'll say Strung out, Propagandi a lot of that really up beat intense punk stuff. I used to listen to a lot of Atreyu and Avenged Sevenfold stuff like that.

So if you could do a stripped down punk side project, would you? Yeah dude, I'd be down for that, strap on a strat and jump around. I'd have pizza on stage, nah I'm just fucking with you, but that's how I go into music. It was Protest the Hero who got me into Sikh, and I was like what the fuck is that. You realise what can be done with a guitar and all the wave of stuff that came after that they influenced. I was talking about this with Animals as Leaders last night and we talked about the first time we heard Alaska or Death of a dead day, that's the shit that really changed everything. That's why I tend to sound a bit of everything, with a lot of up tempo, melodic and sweet sounding and some aggressive stuff in my catalogue. Don't be surprised if shit gets a little weirder down the line, swing grove here or there or some RnB changes. That's what I'm into now and it offsets the aggression nicely.

Words by Jay Shields



Between the Buried and Me are one of the most progressive bands working in the metal genre today. Their recent album 'Coma Ecliptic' was hailed as a masterpiece of prog-rock and self-labelled by the band as a rock-opera. Headlining the final night of the UK Tech-Fest, we had a chat with guitarist Dustie Waring about his passion for music, touring and festivals.

You guys have played lots of festivals over the years! Have you got any stand out festival stories? We were at Ozzfest in 2006, it was one of the last days and the stage crew had taken a liking to us, and at the time we were playing one of our epic long songs and they lowered a little Stonehenge from the ceiling and a little guy came out and ran around it, so they did their own little spinal tap thing.

Are there any festivals that you guys would like to play that you've never played before? Honestly the one festival I always wanted to play was Bonnaroo and we did, and it was a fucking fabulous experience. We were treated great; we had 4 or 5 thousand people watching us. Got to watch a lot of cool bands. Like I'd previously said, Tears for fears, Kacey Musgraves, Alabama Shakes, Billy Joel, it's just like a smorgasbord of everything you can think of.

If you could put on your own festival, what would you call it and who would you want to headline it? I'd probably call it Progmania or something like that. I'd have Radiohead headline, Opeth play and Emperor and Reunion, just stuff like that, really experimental bands of different genres. Diversity is very appealing to me.

That really shows in the tunes that you guys put out, I've always thought that it's amazing how you weave so many different sorts of genres into your songs. When your writing is it a conscious effort that you put lots of different styles together or does it just naturally flow into your songs? It flows just because we've been doing this for so long and it's become completely natural for us. But you also have 5 different people with 5 different influences from different types of music, so obviously we end up writing all this shit that's really different and composing it in a way where all these different ideas are getting used and it ends up coming out to be a pretty lengthy song with lots of different dynamics in it, which is because there's lots of us putting in ideas that are compiled.

Do you guys ever fight over what bits to put where or is it a natural progression? It's pretty natural, there's not a tonne of ego involved in our writing process. We definitely have to trim the fat sometimes, we'll finish a song, and sometimes sit on it for a week and trim back parts that aren't necessarily adding to the song. It's like cutting the fat off a steak.

I've read that you guys refer to your last album 'Coma Ecliptic' as a rock opera. Would you guys ever want to go on to do a full musical like Queen went on to do? I'd like to see our songs appear in a movie. If we got the opportunity to score in a movie. Playing some really dense film that needed some really dense music, that would be really cool.

Are there any genres or style of movie that you'd really want to write for? I wouldn't want to be a horror because then you're restricted to making it all heavy and scary. I would want it to be a film that was really up and down with lots of emotions and scenes, that way we could do super nice, clean ambient parts that were pretty and then go into super heavy. Something would make us get super creative and think outside of the box.

If you could go on a tour, what would be the dream line-up that you'd take with you and are there any crazes places or venues that you'd like to play? I've always wanted to play red rocks in Colorado. That's just like a dream venue, although I'm not sure why. It would be really cool to tour with a band like Tool. Some sort of band that have had commercial success by being really weird and out of the box, you know like nine inch nails. Just some way to get our art in front of a much bigger audience that has the ability to really open up their minds. You know like Radiohead.

If someone gave you ten thousand dollars and you could make a shoot for the moon video what would you do? Me and the guys have talked about it before, it would be awesome if we had the means we would love to finance Blake's brother Wes to doing essentially a short film for the entire record. It would take him an eternity with all the effects stuff he does. With this record it's really conceptual. So basically we'd just take the coma machine video and make the rest of the movie for the rest of the album. You when you watch the movie Inception and your thinking holy fuck this movie is insane, that is the effect that we would want.

When you were writing 'Coma Eclectic', were you writing with a theme in mind? Or did it grow as the songs evolved? There was a general outline and idea of what Tommy wanted it to be about. And once the ideas were coming in, it gave us a better idea of what song was going to go where. We get questions like this a lot and honestly I'm so out of my mind when we're writing and I put a lot of stress on myself to come up with the best shit I can. To do the most tasteful thing I can, and honestly it's so heavy for me that when it's done it's almost hard to remember all the details of the process. I don't to sleep very well because my mind never stops. I can't stop thinking about what I'm going to do here or what affect shall I use there.

If you could record in any location, any building, the sky's the limit, for example a log cabin in the woods, or up in the mountains, what would be your dream location where you could really feed off the

environment that you're in? I really am a fan of the mountains and I really am a fan of the ocean and in North Carolina, we have some of the best of both. I would definitely want to stay in North Carolina. As cool as it would be to record in some kind of beach house and go fishing after a recording session, but I honestly think that in regards to creative vibes, if we were in some big ass log cabin where the main room was overlooking some huge mountain range in North Carolina, that really would. Be pretty insane. That would be something worth documenting and remembering forever. Obviously there's also famous studio's that would be cool to record in.

Are there any producers that you would really like to work with? Honestly off the top of my head, Jamie King, He's just like a member of our band. He just seems to be able to bring out the best in everybody, and he's done all of our shit. He's recorded all of my records. When I was 15, 16, 17 he recorded all of my records. He's very responsible for the musician that I am today. So we have him, and Yin's mixed our record, I think those two together were able to make quite a phenomenal recording. Coma eclectic is such a step up from anything recording wise that we've ever done and I really think that we have found our team. So no disrespect to anyone we've ever worked with, and we've done the thing where we've spent a bunch of money on a Grammy nominated producer who's worked on some great records that we love but the thing is, that we're not a normal band. When you're working with a producer who's used to working with bands that aren't as complex, at times they are confused by what is going on. And with Jamie King, he comes from the same world we do and he's so brilliant. I mean Blake records the drums with no guitars, nothing, just a click track everywhere. That's first! And Blake will be like "hey take me back to this part" and Jamie's just there and he knows exactly what should be going on and he understands the part no matter how fucked up it is. He's really brilliant and he encourages us to be weird as shit. So he's a really important part of us.

Okay, last question and one that I've been putting to everyone at Tech-Fest this weekend! It's a festival type dare question. If you had to do one or the other, and you couldn't back out of this at all, which would you do, drink a pint of piss or a shot of shit? Pint of piss! Because piss has already been filtered by your organs and shit is just complete waste, so yeah, I would do the piss. It would suck either way. I'm sure anyone would pick this over shit. I'd drink a cow's piss before I'd eat anyone's shit.

Words by Jay Shields



JAMIE LENMAN

We caught up with singer songwriter and former Reuben frontman Jamie Lenman to talk about what makes a good cover, his guest slot on Black Peaks' album, and plans for the future.

We're here at this year's 2000 Trees! How are you feeling about your set today? I really dig 2000 Trees! You know, I have to say I don't really like festivals that much, or I don't like gigs that much, playing gigs, it has to be good to get me out of bed, and 2000 Trees have supported me so much in the past I can't really pass it up, and when they asked me to play this year I was pleased to come, because I had a couple of new songs so I jumped at the chance. It's got a really good vibe.

What was the inspiration behind the decision to do a covers set at 2000 Trees? Well because [the organisers] wanted me to do two sets, they wanted me to play the Axiom stage, and they wanted me to play the Forest stage. And because both of them are just me and a guitar, I wanted to differentiate them so I don't wanna just play the same stuff on the Forest stage and then say "And I'm playing it all again in... 7 hours" So I thought well if I played all covers not only would it give me more material, it would be

quite interesting because I play like one or two covers a set, but never a whole set of covers. I thought that would be interesting for people, and people already know the songs. It's an easy option really, because if you play songs like Buddy Holly, and Help! By The Beatles that's half your work done for you!

What makes a good cover for you, what was the thought process behind the songs you chose to play, and the way you chose to play them? Well the decision you've gotta make when you're doing a cover is; am I gonna do this slavishly to original, to really celebrate what the original artist did, which has its own value and its own merit, and I can dig that; when you just do a straight cover. Or if you're gonna find something different in it, and do it your own way, and they're both valid. I think people get a lot of flak for doing just a straight cover and "oh you didn't really do anything different with it", but to hear someone like Biffy [Clyro] doing Buddy Holly, or Arcane Roots doing Smells Like Teen Spirit, both of those are fantastic, but it's a Biffy Clyro song, and it's an Arcane Roots song, they take their inspiration from Weezer and Nirvana, but it's their own thing. When I played some of the songs I gave it a little sad spin, but some of them I played pretty straight, Help!

was just exactly how they would play it, except, much worse! And it was fine because sometimes you just wanna hear the song man! I don't always wanna hear your cleverest widdly idea. To answer your actual question; if you love the song that you're doing then that makes it!

Are there any bands on the other stages that you've had your eye on this year? Definitely, I've got to say St Pierre Snake Invasion, who opened up the main stage today and they look like they were fucking born on that stage man, They were the only unsigned act on that main stage today, and they really went for it and they are so great, people should really check them out. And then, Heck, who are my good friends, they destroyed everyone, as usual, I think Matthew destroyed his foot. I mean he's only got so many limbs, you know? And then Arcane Roots who were also on the main stage, they're my friends from a long long time ago, and they just killed it. And I saw Cheap Meat, they were great on the Axiom stage. The rest of the time I've been doing interviews so I haven't seen a lot of music, but the music I have seen was great.

When you're preparing a festival set, how does your preparation differ from say a regular club gig, or a tour? That's a good question man, I mean you've gotta imagine that a festival set is similar to a support slot; they're not your audience. And even if people at the festival might have come with a few bands they wanna see and you're one of those groups, there's still a lot of walk ups, people who're just having a listen. So you've got to present a broader aspect of what you do to a certain extent, I mean do what you want, but I think it would be silly to not have one ear on what might be more accessible. So you've got to think "ok, what are the songs that catch you quick and hook you in," and then maybe when you've got them you can do something a little bit introspective. Generally you won't find people doing mumbly introspective stuff at festivals, I did that Cindy Lauper cover at Forest [stage] and everyone left and I thought "oh dear I'm not doing that again" so we'll see how it goes, I've got a quiet number to play on that stage [The Axiom]. To a certain extent if you haven't got 5 minutes for me then fuck you! But any more than that and it's testing people's patience.

You've mentioned you get a lot of calls from people online about a Reuben reunion does that still hold true? People online, people in real life, people through my letterbox, people everywhere yeah, all the time yeah.

Is it still a firm no? Well it was never a firm no; I can't say no as long as we're all alive. As soon as one of us dies, then no! But until then it is technically, physically possible, but I don't want to. I mean that's got to be your answer, it's not impossible, but I don't want to.

You guested on Black Peaks album, how did you first become acquainted with them? I went to see another band called Empress AD, and I turned up early to try and see the support bands, and they fucking blew me away. It just goes to show that whatever gig you're going to, whenever you can, see all the bands! Cause I know most of the time, they are terrible. Support acts are terrible! And I say that because I was a support act, and I still am sometimes a support act at the larger shows! I'm sure people who came to see me play with Kerbdog were like, "who's this joker!?" and maybe you hated my set, that's fine, but maybe one person there was like, "hey this is great!" and found my record, and that's the same with Black Peaks, didn't know they were on the bill, they turned up, they played, I loved them, got hold of the record, became friends with them, ended up on their album, and that's how it happens. Go to the show early!

Who first suggested the guest slot for the album? Well you gotta ask me, I'm not just gonna muscle in on your record! They asked me, and they were very nice, and I sort of thought in the back of mind it'd be nice to do something together in some capacity because we got on so well. Musically, we had a lot of the same musical touchstones. It was the most natural thing in the world.

Finally, Do you currently have any plans to release a follow up to 'Muscle Memory'? No plans, but then there were no plans to release Muscle Memory. It just sort of happened by accident, well not by accident, but you know, I just didn't plan it. One thing led to another, and I think if I found a label that really wanted to push it to a new audience, well not like a new audience, my existing audience is fantastic, and I'm sure that they're ready for anything that I might do, but you always want to pick up new people and you want to expand your audience. So if I found a label, or a distributor or a company that would work with me on doing that...then I would be very interested in making a record.

Words by Robert Burns
Photo by Dave Kavanagh

NAPOLEON

Having just released their debut album ,Newborn Mind, we caught up Napoleon vocalist Wes to talk about his journey into music and how he's settling into the band.

It's your first time here at Techfest! Are you excited to play? Yes, this is our first time here, and it's definitely the band's first time. We were meant to play here last year but the band had to pull out for personal reasons, so I'm glad that we could finally be here to play. I'm really excited, and I know that Sam I really in his element in regards to Tech metal. It's his obsession so he's really excited. It's great to be able to play a different environment.

Any crazy festival stories? Well you know at a festival when you really need to take a dump, and it's like day 4 of a festival and you really don't want to go to the toilet, because it's flooded and filled with syringes and filled with condoms and shit so I decided that you know what I'm just not going to do it. So I was in my tent one day, and I had an empty Pringles tube, and I decided that I was going to try and shit into this Pringles tube. So I squatted for ages, aimed it perfectly and it went straight into the Pringles Tube, I put the lid on, and I launched it. A year later I did the same thing at another festival, but you have to make sure that tube is right over the hole.

You guys have been touring a lot lately throughout Europe and the UK. How's that been going? Yeah it's been going really well. We've been getting out there and promoting our debut album. We weren't really sure what to expect, but the majority of the shows have gone really well, and a lot of people have been coming out to the shows. We're just trying to keep the ball rolling, and keep playing shows and make more fans and just promote the album.





It took you a little while to get the debut album together, but I have to give credit where credit is due, and it is a phenomenal debut, it was well worth the wait. How did you find putting tighter the album and the recording process? It was kind of weird as the album had already been recorded from 5 or 6 months. They had issues with their vocalist at the time, and when I joined the band, the album was just there for me on a plate, so the finished product was there for me, and it was just down to me to put the icing on the cake so to speak. It was a very daunting process for me, as I was told, here's an album, now go put some vocals on it. It was quite nice, but daunting at the same time. They'd spent such a long time writing and recording the album and it's worked out for the best. I'm glad that I was also able to take my time with my vocal part of it. I had to write all the lyrics in my own time.

Where do you draw your influences from when it comes to writing new music? Just a very personal place I think, more than anything else. It sounds really cliché and cheesy to say it, but just I guess it's from my own experiences and the things that I've been through. Things that have happened over the last couple of years have helped me write what I've wanted to say. It just took me a while to feel comfortable with saying what I wanted to say, how I wanted to say it in the right way.

If you were given a wish list and you could choose whoever you wanted, which two bands would you like to tour with? I'm probably going to get really judged, but all genres aside, The 1975, Deftones and Error. The weirdest line up ever! But that's what I'm listening to right now.

If the person you love most in the world was going to die unless you had sex with one person in the band, who would you choose? Jacob definitely, cos he'd probably get really into it and be passionate. That's the most vile thing I've ever said in my life!

What can we expect to see from Napoleon in the future? I can't really say what we'll be doing towards the end of the year but we do have some exciting stuff coming up. I wish I could say it, but I just can't. We're just trying to keep the ball rolling now and keep ahead, keep the momentum going and start writing the second album.

Words by Jay Shields | Photos by Sion Roe



A-Z WITH SIKTH

We catch up with guitarist Pin for the A-Z of SikTh ahead of their hellacious set at 2000 Trees!

Album – What was the first ever album you bought? Cannibal Corpse's *The Bleeding*, when I was about 7. ...While I don't think I knew what was going on I quite liked the sound, and at that time the imagery, it was just that sort of disgusting bloody cover. I probably thought that will be really offensive to my parents, and well that was it, and [I] took it home, and was like alright, that's fucking awful!

Boredom – What do you do to cure boredom on long drives between shows on tour? With SikTh we're quite civilised so it tends to be Alan Partridge, and things like that. Yesterday I was out with the other band, going off topic a bit, but with Aliases we were watching (awful film in my opinion, but good for what I'm about to go to) *Pacific Rim*! And whatever the bad monster things are called Yaegers, so simple game, any time Yaeger is said we had yaeger, and that

passes it, and after a while we pretty much pass out, so that saves any boredom, we're just dead!

Cover Songs – If you could only cover songs from one band for the rest of your musical career, whose songs would you pick? Oh God, that's a hard question... I reckon it'd be Stevie Wonder actually.

Describe – How would you describe your sound in just 3 words? Forward thinking metal.

Essential Items – What essential possession could you not live without? My guitars.

Festivals – What is your top tip for festival survival? Get a hotel! [Laughs] I've got too old for camping now, I can't deal with it!

Gigs – Best/Worst gig you've ever played? The very best gig was probably the first Download, and it probably isn't the best gig we've ever played or done [or] anything like that, but I think it's just that first humongous festival and that sort of step up always

sticks in your mind. The worst? Oh Jesus Christ [laughs], it will just be one of those gigs that you travel for miles and miles for, and it's either arranged horrendously and there's no one there... Just one of those you know? I can't think of like a really specific worst gig ever, it's just when you've put a lot of effort in, and there's like 2 people there who don't give a shit. Fortunately it hasn't happened in a while, but that would do it!

Highlights – What has been the biggest highlight for the band so far? That's a progressive thing, again it comes back to those steps from gigs, so, once upon I'd say it was signing our first record deal. So now I guess you'd say the current highlight is coming back actually after 8 years off and it working, and everything sort of moving forward with a decent momentum.

So do you view yourselves as elder statesmen now of the progressive metal scene? I don't know because, we've still got so many ideas to develop and we've not reached our peak. We've still got new tricks, so we can't be the old dog! [laughs]

Instrument – If you pick up and learn to play any instrument, what would it be? Assuming I [already] play guitar, which I hope I do... [Laughs] I think to be honest I'd always actually liked to be able to play a piano really well as opposed to really poorly working my way around it, cause I think it's an amazingly expressive instrument and I'm pretty shit at it, so that would be the one I'd like to actually master.

Joke – Tell us your best joke! What's red and green, and red and green, and red and green?

I don't know

Frog in a blender

That's pretty bad

Yeah, it's terrible!

Knowledge – Who is the best at totally useless knowledge and weird facts? [It is] Without a doubt; James. Although half the time I wouldn't say they're useless, he's just a collector of knowledge. He's able to just recall and, know things.

Line-up – If you could put together your ideal tour line-up, and you could pick two bands to play alongside you, who would you pick and why? If it's just a dream thing that wouldn't work in terms of my own personal preference it would just be John Zorn, who's sort of a jazz composer, he's not strictly limited to that, but he does this kind of free jazz kind

of music amongst other things, and is probably my favourite composer of all time in terms of "What are you doing, this is incredible!?" So him, because I just want to see it action and get to talk to him. And I might just go the opposite end of the spectrum and actually go out with someone like Venetian snares ... and just have the electronic carnage. Basically my listening taste is mostly unlistenable to you normal human beings [laughs] so I'd probably just go with those because I normally wouldn't have a chance to.

Material – What's the plan for new material? Do you have anything announced or in the works? I think it has been announced but not particularly grandiosely that we are working on another album, and it's cool, it's exciting, we've got a lot of ideas, but we're at a stage we're still stockpiling ideas and we haven't got songs. So, it's exciting, but I think it's safe to say that will be out, if everything goes to plan, spring time next year.

Next – What's next to come from the band? What do you hope to have achieved by the end of the year? This year has been sort of almost like a development year for us, since we've come back we've done two UK tours which have been the biggest ones we've ever done. This year was about really developing fanbases, so we've gone and done lots of European festivals, somehow throughout our early runs we never did much work in Europe, so we need to develop that market, same with America, we split up pretty much just when we were booked to go to America, so now when we go we're off out with Periphery for a month, that's gonna be really cool. And on top of that you've got the whole new album thing

Opportunity – If you were given the opportunity to headline any festival in the world, which would you pick? I'd like to go back to FujiRock in Japan, it's a cool thing, very varied musically, but there's something about [it] that's got a charm that you haven't seen at many other gigs or festivals.

Prodigy – If you could have been a child prodigy, what would you have been skilled at? Anything other than music so I could make lots of money! So maybe probably I'd be a prodigy at IT, so I guess with my age I'd have been a prodigy sort of in the Internet probably, so then I'd be minted! [laughs]

Queen – Who is the band's biggest drama queen? I'm gonna be diplomatic, but we're all pretty strong personalities and we all have our moments. Different situations bring out the worst in all of us!

Rituals – Do you have any pre-show rituals? I like to wander around with the crowd and talk to people, I hate being cooped up backstage. Warm up a bit, but I prefer to go talk to people, and be a human being than be stuck backstage. If I get stuck in a certain location I get bored very quickly!

Stage – Have you ever had anything embarrassing happen to you whilst on stage? There'll be many occasions! Mostly it's the moment where you've gone zipping across stage for a part where you're playing a section on your own, and you run across to change settings on your pedalboard, hit a puddle of water and end up on your own arse and completely bugger up that section of the song and be on your arse looking like an idiot!

Tips – What tips or advice would you give to anyone starting up a band? I think it's just about quality control, I think it's so much, not easier, but obviously people can have more easy access to their own software and recording stuff and the rest, but I'd just say don't lose the soul of being in a band, and actually play stuff, don't just sit around the computer and form stuff that sounds good on record that doesn't work when you play it in the band.

Unknown – Tell us an unknown fact about the band! We once made a DVD with members of the cast of The Office that never saw the light of day!

What was on it? It was very weird! I did own a copy once upon a time, but since I've moved house several times I've not seen it in about 15 years and I don't even remember myself, it was weird, that's all I remember.

Viral – If you could do or say something that would go viral, what would you want it to be? Just to have a track actually blow up, taking what we do and getting it further out than you ever imagined!

Writing – What influences you when it comes to writing new songs? The influence is creativity, what haven't we done before, what have we not heard in our context? How can we take that, put it into our music, but retain something that still sounds to us, something like a song? Because as crazy as SikTh can get to people we've always been very concerned about structure and writing stuff that's memorable.

X-rated – Do you have any bizarre or x-rated tour stories? I made the mistake of wearing rigidly materialled shorts whilst going out pre breakfast to play football, a bit commando, took a massive boot at the goal, and ended up with my undercarriage everywhere.

Year – What can we expect to see from the band for the remainder of this year? The new album thing

Zombie – If the entire band were involved in a zombie apocalypse, who would be eaten first and who would survive? I've got a feeling at this current point in time Mikey would be eaten first, he's quite a nervous sort of guy and panics a lot, so he'd just sort of whimper in a corner somewhere, I think I'd probably survive due to my habits of just getting on with things.

Words by Robert Burns

Photo by Carl Battams



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Billy Talent - Afraid of Heights

The End Records | Release Date: 29th July 2016

After a 2-year absence, Canadian rock favourites Billy Talent are back with their 5th studio album 'Afraid of Heights'. Despite releasing a greatest hits album in 2014 with the brand new single 'Kingdom of Zod', it has been 4 years since the band's last studio album 'Dead Silence', and fans from around the world have been waiting patiently in anticipation for the next instalment from these talented rockers!

The title track 'Afraid of Heights' was the first single to be released, and immediately you can hear that the classic Talent sound still remains in every single note, and this is sure to go down well with their fans! There are so many highlights in this album, but the second single 'Louder Than the DJ' certainly delivers the punchy vocals from Benjamin Kowalewicz that is the signature to the Billy Talent vibe and sound.

With many other noticeable tracks such as 'Rabbit Down The Hole', 'Time-Bomb Ticking Away' and 'Horses & Chariots', Billy Talent have made a comprehensive return to the music scene with this album, and this is most certainly one of the best releases of 2016 so far!

Words by **Kristofer Billingham**



Carcer City - Infinite // Unknown

Stay Sick Recordings | Release Date: 16th Sept 2016

Liverpool based Metalcore/Djent outfit Carcer City are back with their second full length album "Infinite // Unknown" to prove that Metalcore is alive and well. The elegant dance between brutal, merciless yet highly rhythmic palm-mutings, topped off with some raspy screams and atmospheric, melodic parts and their authentic execution is a mixture that makes this album special even though sonic novelties are scarce.

The beefy guitars rhythmically chug their way through the verses like a forest fire only to erupt in catchy, spacey choruses. Underlined by cleverly written, natural vocals which show similarities to early the Breakdown Of Sanity or Northlane the one thing that definitely isn't missing is power. The songs also don't lack dynamics.

The album itself, on the contrary, is in desperate need of those dynamics, though. Almost all of the twelve tracks, except for the last two, consist of very similar song structures and overall vibes. The whole record lacks highlights although there would have been plenty of room for one considering the songs' wide and dynamic structures. It's both heavy and melodic but it's always heavy and melodic so the diversity that could have been added gets lost completely. This fact makes listening to the album in its entirety exhausting, even though the songs are so catchy and hard-hitting. Those who seek something new and refreshing will be deeply disappointed by "Infinite // Unknown" but that doesn't change the fact that these songs are about to destroy everything in sight in the best way possible.

Words by **Niklas Benedum**





Chelsea Grin - Self Inflicted
Rise Records | Release Date: 1st July 2016

Bringing us their debut album 'Self Inflicted', Salt Lake City metal giants Chelsea Grin carry brutal riffs with intense melodies and vocals that are hugely popular amongst fans and bands alike. After touring extensively across America and Europe over the last 2-3 years, the band have finally been able to release their debut album and take the world by storm after much anticipation!

From track 1 'Welcome Back', listeners are greeted with a level of musical intensity that will simply blow your mind and throw you into a deep, dark channel of mystery. There is a tasty yet chilling mix of guitar breakdowns, catastrophic vocal sections, and blistering drum melodies throughout each and every track on this album. 'Clickbait', 'Skin Deep' and 'Broken Bonds' are particular are tracks to keep an ear out for the most.

Despite there being a lot of releases within the metal and hardcore genres in recent months, Chelsea Grin have certainly delivered an accomplished collection of tracks to satisfy the needs of hardcore metal heads and music fans alike. Their best is definitely yet to come!

Words by **Kristofer Billingham**



Despised Icon - Beast
Nuclear Blast Records | Release Date: 11th July 2016

Many a year ago, a band who had been named pioneers of a genre, decided the world wasn't quite brutal enough for them and called it quits. Fast forward to 2016 and they have returned, and just like any good wine, they have matured and become too strong to handle. Cheers.

Unusually, it begins with a rather weak track 'The Aftermath', it's heavy, but it almost feels like Despised Icon have forgotten how to blast beats until your brain goes all mushy. Continuing from that catastrophe the album really picks up and reminds us why we love Despised Icon so much, they have done an amazing job of staying true to their style.

Highlights of the album have to be 'Grind Forever' (very reminiscent of their hit track 'MVP') and 'Time Bomb'. Featuring the insane speeds and dual and equally aggressive vocals covering the whole range. It's not their best work, but without a shadow of a doubt, it is Despised Icon through and through.

Words by **Dylan Cameron**





Emarosa - 131

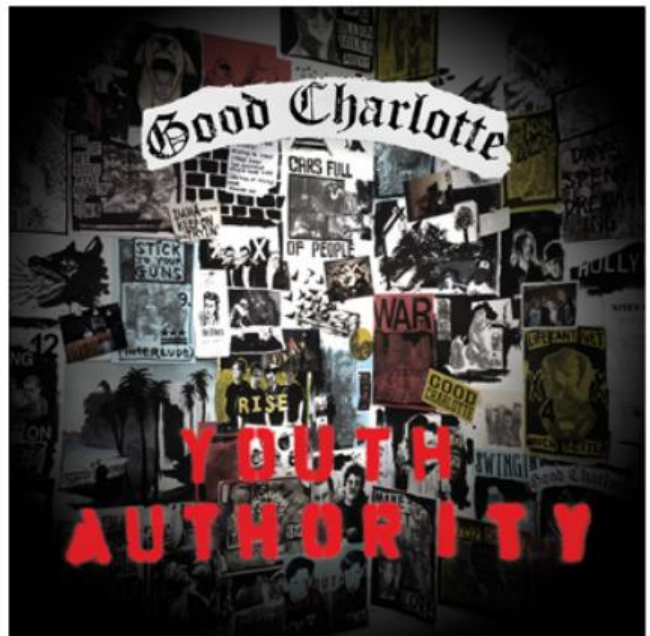
Hopeless Records | Release Date: 8th July 2016

Unfortunately, if we're going off his track record, any band that Jonny Craig is a part of at any point in their career are left with his imprint. The void he leaves is always looked back at, in one way or another.

This can't be more of the case than Emarosa, even after recruiting Bradley Walden (ex-Squid The Whale) to step up to the mic. Following a three year hiatus, they returned back in 2014 with 'Versus', and though they certainly shook off their Craig era for the most part, the more alt rock stylings with Walden at the helm, whilst a success, still came across as a band proving they're far from down for the count yet still finding their feet.

With record number four, '131', the Kentucky troupe have certainly set themselves apart from the pack, revitalised, and ready to shoulder themselves ahead of their contemporaries. Walden's croons are at a career best, and are the crowning moment here. 'Helpless' has a Michael Jackson vibe to it all, soul is the name of the game on 'Hurt', 'Cloud 9' is built to dominate the radio, and 'Porcelain' is a heart-tugging and emotionally sincere number. In short, '131' could finally see Emarosa reap the success they've deserved for years.

Words by **Zach Redrup**



Good Charlotte - Youth Authority

Kobalt Label Services | Release Date: 19th July 2016

Maryland band Good Charlotte, have returned after a 4 year hiatus after signing a new deal with Kobalt Label Services. That's a long time for any band to go away, most never return from the depths of normality but these guys have clawed back in with a freshly sharpened bite and a power-mansion of songs.

Alas, coming back is no easy thing, if you don't adapt, you're corkscrewed and that's where most bands fail, but these lads have managed to hitch up their sound to suit the nowadays, whilst still capturing the very thing that made them great before.

Their new album 'Youth Authority' will dropkick you with nostalgia, stitch memories all over your favourite hoodie and lather your body in the finest Charles Essences, with distant feelings throughout of Madina Lake, You Me At Six and Sleeping With Sirens (probably explains the Kellin Quinn feature!)

With a back catalogue that has songs like 'Lifestyles Of The Rich And Famous', 'Boys And Girls' & 'Keep Your Hands Off My Girl', they set a high bar to beat but for new and old-comers to GC, you're still scoring a touchdown here.

Words by **Leo Ismail**





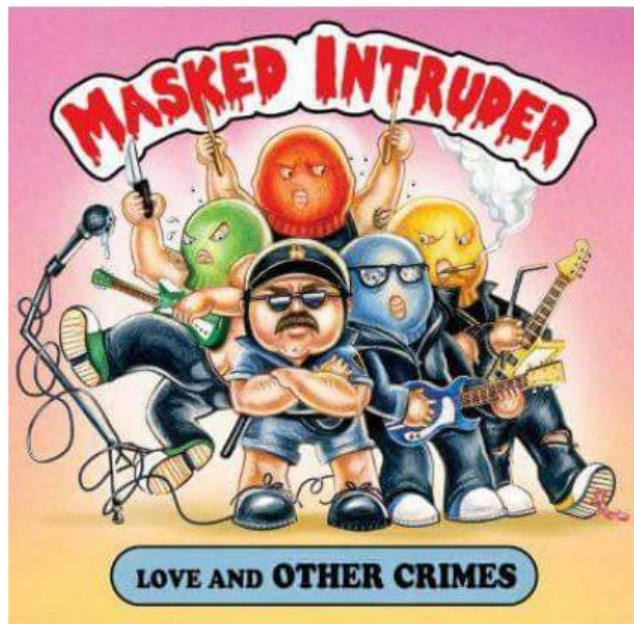
Loathe - Prepare Consume Proceed
 Sharpstone Records | Release Date: 8th July 2016

As an artist, sometimes being an enigma and a mystery can be just as fruitful as putting all of your cards on the table for all to see. Loathe are very much that to a tee; presenting themselves as one singular and searingly aggressive entity than a group of musicians.

Despite an initial self-release back in October of last year, the band are putting out debut EP 'Prepare Consume Proceed' once again, but this time with a label backing. Their sinister and ominous presence throughout the likes of 'In Death' and 'Banshee' is only matched by their lamenting anger and extreme vexation. The riffs crunch and flirt between djent, tech metal and deathcore, the electronic overlays could easily backdrop over any televised tale of murder, and the odd clean vocal hook just reels you into the darkness deeper and deeper.

If you want to know what a tortured soul wracked with despair and anguish sounds like on record, the search is over.

Words by **Zach Redrup**



Masked Intruder - Love And Other Crimes
 Pure Noise Records | Release Date: 8th July 2016

The mysterious face concealing marauders that make up pop punkers Masked Intruder blast back with this punchy EP. Love And Other Crimes is six sub three minute tracks of straightforward, catchy punk with a definite poppy edge to it. It's upbeat and energetic and will put a spring in the step of anybody who listens to it.

One criticism that could be weighed at this release is the fact that it's maybe a little too same-y but to be honest, the fact that it flies by in a flash gives you little time to let it affect your listening pleasure. Tracks like Beyond A Shadow Of Doubt, Running From The Cops and Take What I Want are packed full of vigor and sardonic lyrics that will appeal to any fans of the genre and have the right energetic and memorable qualities.

Fans of the likes of NOFX and Less Than Jake will find a lot to love here and although Masked Intruder lack the grit of the former and the brass of the latter, they have enough energy and catchiness to appeal to fans of those bands.

Words by **Gavin Brown**





Periphery - Periphery III: Select Difficulty

Century Media Records | Release Date: 22nd July 2016

Periphery III provides another densely packed collection of songs showcasing incredible technical musicianship, which demands multiple listens to properly digest. Freeing themselves of the strict confines of the djent movement the band have opened themselves up to more experimentation than before. This takes several forms throughout the album's runtime, from Spencer Sotello's scattergun vocal delivery on newest single Motormouth, whose delivery feels reminiscent of Spit It Out from early Slipknot. The orchestral and electronic experimentation that has been present since the band's debut periodically raises its head also. Other stand out moments include the opening salvo of blast beats introducing The Price is Wrong, sets their stall out and gives drummer Matt Halpern a chance to shine from the first bar. Indeed, his performance throughout could be a career best.

That's not to say that all ideas hit the mark. The outro of The Way The News Goes... is clearly designed to elicit a sense of tension, and break up the preceding track's guitar assault with a mournful piano coda. Unfortunately, this falls flat. The album has all the elements that people have come to associate with Periphery, serpentine riffs weave in and out of the drums and prove suitably rhythmically challenging. Spencer's vocals alternate between soaring high notes and guttural lows, create another level of texture to appreciate. Ultimately this album successfully experiments with the band's existing sound without without deviating what Periphery are at their core; which is one of the most dazzlingly creative forces in modern metal.

Words by **Robert Burns**



Vanna - All Hell

Pure Noise Records | Release Date: 8th July 2016

Boston based post-hardcore band Vanna are back with their fittingly titled 6th studio release , All Hell. Musically Vanna have let all hell break lose with intense riffs, melodic choruses and shouts that are so strong you can almost feel the spit shooting through your speakers throughout this record.

Lyrically there is a ridiculous amount of rage in the album with tracks like Mutter opening with a turbulent, almost threatening, "Shut Up". However this is the most noticeable track on the album while Vanna have produced a record that is perfect to let off some steam to it is not a stand out album and does unfortunately fall into the shadows amongst many other post-hardcore records.

Overall Vanna have without a doubt excellently produced All Hell and the band have poured a lot of their emotion into it. However, it is just another angry post-hardcore record that will be forgotten about. There's not much more to it than that, it's been done before and it will be replicated time and time again.

Words by **Sam Taylor**



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ELITE: UPRISING

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After their second EP “Golden Times For Desperate Lovers” this German Post-Hardcore Outfit have decided to take their time. Five years to be exact. Only to re-emerge from the depths with their first full length album “Neverlandscapes”. While taking influence from bands such as Touché Amoré and Underoath the five guys from Nuremberg are taking the German scene by storm playing some of the countries most important venues. Be sure to check them out!



HEARTACHES

They're the latest signees to the Artery Recordings roster, and they're absolutely pissed off to fuck. Sweden's Heartaches are basically what you'd get from Sworn In if they were on steroids and more focused on screaming down their opposition than wracked with self-loathing. Their first single 'Deathlist' is full of vocal shredding and lament, and if that wasn't enough, Tyler Shelton from Traitors also makes an appearance. They're dropping their debut EP 'Svart' on August 12th, so prepare for the hate now.



LOATHE

Remember back when there was an enigma about Slipknot? When they wouldn't leave the house without their masks on, not even to pop down to the shops for some bread? Well, newcomers Loathe have taken a similar approach. With no mention of actual names across the whole worldwide web, Loathe are an entity over a group of musicians. They've recently secured a deal with SharpTone Records alongside Miss May I, Don Broco and a few others to re-release last year's debut EP, 'Prepare Consume Proceed', along with a scheduled appearance at Knotfest, despite being a band for less than a year. Let's consume.



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